

Jordan seeks 'decent housing for all'

ISTANBUL (Petra) — Jordan Friday called for cooperation among nations and assistance from advanced countries and specialised organisations to help ensure decent housing for all people, especially in the countries of the Third World. Making the call at the U.N. Habitat II conference in Istanbul, Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Hadi Al Majali said that while appreciating efforts at the regional and international levels to prepare for this conference, it is hoped that concerned U.N. organisations and other specialised agencies will offer assistance and support to various governments and institutions seeking to secure housing for their citizens and so fulfil the objectives of the U.N. Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). In delivering Jordan's address to the meeting, Mr. Majali said "the Kingdom has adopted a comprehensive and national housing strategy and established joint public and private sector companies to carry out housing schemes and provided municipal and other local councils with expertise to lay infrastructure projects and carry out housing units."

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King receives message from Bahraini emir

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received on Thursday at the Royal Court Bahraini Minister of Education Abdul Aziz Ben Mohammad Fadel who relayed to his Majesty a message from Bahraini Emir Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifah dealing with bilateral relations and means to bolster them. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh.

Prime minister announced public holiday

AMMAN (Petra) — All Ministries, government departments and public institutions will be closed on Monday, June 10 in observance of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day, according to a communique issued by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti.

Russian deputy FM expected in Iraq Monday

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Possovaiuk is expected in Baghdad on Monday as part of a four-country Middle East shuttle, diplomatic sources here said. During his visit to Baghdad, the length of which was not specified, Mr. Possovaiuk was due to discuss bilateral relations between the two countries with Iraqi leaders, the sources said. He was also due to pass on a message to Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tarek Aziz from Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov. The Russian foreign ministry said Thursday that during his visit to Baghdad Mr. Possovaiuk would also look at "Russia's participation in the transport of humanitarian aid" under the terms of the oil-for-food deal agreed between Iraq and the United Nations May 20.

Sudanese man beheaded in S. Arabia

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia on Friday beheaded a Sudanese man for fatally stabbing a woman and her two young daughters, Saudi state television reported. The man was executed in the capital Riyadh for killing Sudanese national Mona Murghani Kou and her two daughters aged 4 and 2, said an interior ministry statement carried by the television. The statement said he entered Ms. Murghani's home, cut her wrists and stole her gold jewellery after killing her. Beheadings by the sword, in line with the Islamic sharia law enforced in the conservative kingdom, are usually carried out in public after Friday noon prayers. Last year the number of beheadings for various crimes soared to 192 and some of the executions were carried out on other days of the week. Most of those executed were convicted drug smugglers from the Indian sub-continent. Saudi Arabia in March beheaded a convicted murderer in the first execution in five months.

Syria, Egypt, S. Arabia seek Arab front to face Netanyahu

DAMASCUS (AFP) — The leaders of Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia on Friday held the fourth Arab mini-summit in a message to forge a common front against any moves by Israel's new hard-line leader to undo the peace process.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak and Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia went into talks in Damascus in the latest show of Arab unity.

The leaders, who will meet again on Saturday, were to discuss a proposal to call a broader Arab summit in the search for a joint strategy on the peace process.

Crown Prince Abdullah, representing the ailing King Fahd, said in a statement: "We came here for the sake of a just peace and to show the world that we strive for peace rather than surrender."

"We want peace and security for others just as we want it for our Arab peoples," he said. Friday's meeting is the fourth mini-summit to be held since last Sunday amid alarm at the election of right-wing Likud leader

Benjamin Netanyahu as Israel's prime minister.

Mr. Netanyahu campaigned on a hardline platform pledging no further territorial concessions to the Palestinians, no Palestinian state, no talks on the future of Jerusalem and no return of the Golan Heights to Syria.

Syria demands the return of the Golan — a strategic plateau overlooking northern Israel which was seized by the Jewish state in 1967 Middle East war — as a condition for peace.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, who met his Syrian and Saudi counterparts here Friday ahead of the summit, warned that the peace process was "surrounded by thick fog" after Mr. Netanyahu's win.

"It is a very serious process and we cannot sacrifice that process for rhetoric or extreme positions," he said, stressing that the Arabs, although divided on many issues, agree on the principle of a land-for-peace settlement with Israel.

However, he added that "we are going to give Netanyahu the benefit of the doubt until we know exactly where he stands" after the

formation of his cabinet.

Mr. Musa said that the Damascus meeting was also to decide whether to call a broader Arab summit.

The Egyptian government daily Al Ahram on Friday reported the leaders were to call for a summit of at least 10 Arab leaders in Cairo.

The last full Arab summit was held in August 1990 just after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait which deeply divided the Arab world.

Meanwhile in Gaza city, Palestinian president Yasser Arafat began a meeting on Friday with senior officials from his government and PLO leaders to discuss the future of the peace process after the right-wing election victory in Israel (see story on page 12).

The Syrian and Saudi press appealed Friday for renewed Arab solidarity. Arab unity "constitutes the Arab people's most powerful weapon to confront the difficulties and challenges" posed by Mr. Netanyahu's victory, said Syria's official Al Thawra daily.

Al Thawra also flatly rejected proposals by Mr. Netanyahu for a resumption of peace talks that would exclude the Golan. "Syria is

not at all concerned by the peace proposed by Netanyahu," it said.

The Saudi daily Al Jazirah warned: "There will be no peace without Arab solidarity."

Arab leaders have held a series of piecemeal summits since Mr. Netanyahu's win, beginning last Sunday with a meeting between Lebanese President Elias Hrawi and Assad in Damascus.

The Syrian president then met Mr. Mubarak in Cairo on Monday with both men voicing pessimism over the future of the peace process.

On Wednesday Mr. Mubarak flew to Aqaba for talks with His Majesty King Hussein and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Saudi Arabia has long been considered the Arab's World's financial superpower, Egypt its center of diplomacy and Syria a potential military counterbalance to Israel.

Originally the summit was to have been held in Riyadh but it was moved to the Syrian capital apparently because of the poor health of Saudi King Fahd.

Netanyahu's programme, government start to emerge

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The outlines of Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu's government began to emerge Friday, with hardliners apparently kept out of key cabinet posts but with policy guidelines which leave little room for manoeuvre on the peace front.

Sources close to negotiations on the formation of a new Israeli government said Mr. Netanyahu had rejected demands by Ariel Sharon, a former defence minister and leading ultra-nationalist hardliner, for the powerful finance portfolio.

Instead the portly Sharon, a fierce opponent of the Palestinian autonomy accord, is slated to regain control of the housing ministry he controlled prior to 1992 when the

right-wing Likud Party was last in power, the sources said.

That job would put Mr. Sharon in a position to expand Jewish settlement of the West Bank, as called for in the Likud programme, but would take key powers for financing such action out of his hands.

Likud officials said Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Sharon spoke by telephone on Thursday for the first time since the Likud leader defeated incumbent Prime Minister Shimon Peres in May 29 elections.

Mr. Netanyahu has also apparently rebuffed demands by another ultra-nationalist firebrand, Rafael Eytan, to control the defence ministry, sources said.

Mr. Eytan was the army chief of staff when Israel

invaded Lebanon in 1982 and since the elections has publicly argued that the new government should not be obliged to respect peace agreements signed with the Palestinians by the former labor administration.

Israel public radio reported Friday that Mr. Eytan was threatening to boycott the government if he failed to obtain the defence portfolio, but Likud sources said the job was likely to go to a more moderate Likud figure, possibly former general Yitzhak Mordechai.

The other top post which appears decided is the foreign ministry, widely expected to go to David Levy, a political moderate who held the job from 1988 to 1992.

(Continued on page 7)

UAE calls on China to help keep Gulf stable

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The government has urged China to help maintain stability in the Gulf, the Gulf News daily reported Friday.

It said the UAE's foreign minister, Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, told this to the visiting Chinese defence minister, Lt. Gen. Chi Haotian, in a meeting Thursday night.

The UAE, which is locked in a territorial dispute with Iran over islands in the southern Gulf, has been concerned about reports of alleged sales of Chinese missiles and nuclear technology to Iran.

The United States alleges Iran is seeking to acquire nuclear weapons, a charge Tehran denies. It was not known whether Sheikh Hamdan and Chi discussed Iran, but the UAE's appeal to China came less than a week after the tiny Gulf nation of Bahrain accused Iran of plotting to overthrow its government. Iran has denied that accusation too. The UAE and the other members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council have rallied behind Bahrain following the government announcement of the plot.

Earlier Friday, Ms. Ciller offered a formula excluding Welfare, with the two centre-right and two centre-left parties joining hands.

But Ms. Ciller's offer did not seem realistic considering the bad blood between herself and Mr. Yilmaz, and she would not rule out a coalition of her True Path Party with Welfare.

"Welfare also has to be tried in government," said a True Path official, Ismail Kose. "You can't ignore the 6 million voters" who went for Welfare.

Talks could drag on for weeks as they did last winter before Motherland and True Path formed their shaky alliance in March to block Welfare from power.

But True Path pulled out of the coalition two weeks ago after parliamentary probes, backed by Mr. Yilmaz, were begun to investigate alleged corruption by Ms. Ciller. She denies any wrongdoing.



His Majesty King Hussein is seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal Family members and senior officials before his departure to the U.S. (Petra photo)

King leaves for the U.S. to hold talks with Clinton

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday departed for Washington where he will meet U.S. President Bill Clinton to discuss prospects for Middle East peace in the wake of Israel's general elections and the emergence of right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu as new prime minister of Israel.

The White House meeting, the second between the King and Mr. Clinton in two months, will probably take place on June 13, according to a government official. The official said that the King, who had planned to travel to the United States long before the Israeli elections, decided to seek a meeting with President Clinton to discuss the Middle East peace in the light of the results of the Israeli elections.

Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the King plans to discuss issues of common concern to Jordan and the United States in addition to the peace process and the outcome of the

Israeli elections. Petra said that King Hussein is accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein, Chief of the Royal Court Awn Khasawneh, King's advisor on Security Affairs Mustafa Qaisi and the American Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan.

King Hussein will be the first Arab leader to meet with Mr. Clinton since the election of Mr. Netanyahu as prime minister of the Jewish state, an election that has raised concern of the future of the Middle East peace process.

Jordan is seeking an overall Arab-Israeli settlement, made more difficult by the election of Mr. Netanyahu, to cement its 1994 peace treaty with Israel. The U.S., the main sponsor of the five-year-old peace process, said it continued to believe Arab-Israeli negotiations should be based on land for peace, a principle opposed by Mr. Netanyahu during his election campaign.

In an interview with the New York Enquirer Wednesday, King Hussein was quoted as saying that Mr. Netanyahu should be given a chance to prove if he is committed to the peace process and the implementation of the Oslo agreements with the Palestinians.

The King said he believed the new Israeli government would be as committed as its predecessor to the effort and suggested Mr. Netanyahu may soften his hard-line stance once he is in office.

The King also made it clear in the interview that Jordan will never negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians adding that Jordanian-Palestinian relationship can only be discussed once the Palestinians have created their own state.

In an address to a ceremony for the graduation of army officers from the Royal War College on Thursday, King Hussein said: "Peace does not frighten us and it is

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan was only country to keep issue of refugees alive, Regent says

AMMAN (PETRA) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday said Jordan was the only country who kept the issue of refugees and their right to repatriation or compensation alive in all the agreements it has signed.

Addressing students at the Royal Command and Staff College and the Air Command and Staff College, Prince Hassan stressed Jordan's support for the Palestinian rights, saying that Jordan does not accept, under any circumstances, any attempts by any party to deny the status of refugees in Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine, as defined by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees UNRWA.

The Regent, who was commenting on working papers on state of the Jordanian national economy, and the difficulties and challenges facing it, in addition to human resources and role of armed forces in administrative development, presented by students attending both colleges, defined two major components, namely circumstantial and basic security. The Crown Prince stressed the important role played by the armed forces in maintaining security, and noted in this regard that Jordan has never had any expansionist policies or designs.

Prince Hassan said management of human resources and natural resources, in addition to the economic effects are three major factors in ensuring basic security. Jordan calls for adopting strategic decisions benefiting the public

interest rather than the narrow interests.

On unemployment, Prince Hassan said the armed forces play a great role in providing job opportunities. He stressed the importance of holding inter-related technical workshops at the specialised institutes, noting the importance of such workshops in ensuring job opportunities. On management of natural resources, Prince Hassan said containing unemployment is part of circumstantial security, because enemies of stability argue that there will be no stability as long as unemployment and poverty exist. Many, even try to utilise unemployment to influence stability, and the final say in this respect is the proper management of resources.

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Iran offers to mediate between Bahrain, opposition

CAIRO (AFP) — Iran is prepared to mediate between the Bahrain government and the opposition in the Gulf state, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said in an interview published Friday.

"We are ready to mediate between the government and opposition in Bahrain to find a solution acceptable to all parties," he told the Arab daily Al Hayat, while again denying accusations from Manama that Tehran backed a plot to topple the government.

"We think talks between the government and the

opposition are the only way to end the internal problems in Bahrain," he added.

And the Iranian foreign minister blamed "U.S. pressure" for the "political tension" troubling relations between Tehran and some Gulf Arab states.

Bahrain on Monday for the first time openly accused Iran of being behind the 18 months of unrest in the country when the authorities said they had arrested dozens of members of a group called the Military Wing of Hezbollah-Bahrain.

Manama has said it was

recalling its ambassador to Tehran, and Iran swiftly followed suit and ordered its ambassador in the Gulf archipelago to return home, lowering ties to the level of charges d'affaires.

Mr. Velayati said Tehran "had no interest in interfering in the internal affairs of Bahrain," adding that "we do not wish to be the source of tension or crises in the region, as that would be harmful for everybody."

Relations between Iran and other Gulf states, Qatar, Oman and Kuwait, were "very good," he said. Tehran was in favour of

cooperating on security issues with Gulf kingdoms and was prepared to sign "non-aggression treaties."

"U.S. officials themselves have said they want to isolate Iran and they have not concealed the pressure they are putting on their allies to sever relations with Tehran," said Mr. Velayati.

"What is more, the Americans want a pretext to justify their military presence in the area," he said.

The unrest in Bahrain has been led by Shites demanding a restoration of the parliament suspended in 1975 by the Sunni-led authorities.

U.N. team arrives in Baghdad to hasten application of oil deal

BAGHDAD (R) — A United Nations team arrived in Baghdad on Friday to hasten the implementation of the food-for-oil deal Iraq signed with the United Nations last month.

Team leader, Raymond Sommerey, told reporters his mission in Iraq was to speed up procedures allowing Iraq to export limited amounts of oil in return for food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies.

"This mission was sent by the secretary-general of the United Nations to ensure from his side that the memorandum of understanding that was reached between him and the government of Iraq could be implemented as soon as possible," Mr. Sommerey said.

Under the oil deal, worth \$2 billion of crude exports

in six months, the U.N. secretary-general needs to approve a distribution plan of the food and medical supplies purchased by the oil money.

Iraq said this week it was about to finish the plan which it intended to discuss with U.N. experts before sending it to the secretary-general.

"We will consult with the Iraqi authorities on the practical aspects of the implementation," Mr. Sommerey said. Asked what areas he had in mind, he said, "whatever is necessary."

A source in Mr. Sommerey's team said members, among whom are oil and customs experts, would visit Iraq's oil terminals on the Gulf and also crude gauge instruments at a

pumping station on the Iraqi-Turkish borders.

Before Iraq starts pumping, the U.N. needs to station experts at both locations to ensure crude amounts and quality exported by Iraq meet the specifications agreed upon by Baghdad and the U.N. sanctions committee.

Iraq has said its export outlets are ready to handle the partial exports estimated at about 800,000 barrels per day (bpd) at current prices.

Mr. Sommerey's mission was the first to arrive in Iraq following the signing of the deal on May 20. The seven members, driven to Baghdad's smartest hotel, the Al Rasheed, by limousines flew from Kuwait to Iraq's Habaniya military airport 60 kilometres west of the Iraqi capital.

Mr. Sommerey, who is director of the West Asia division of the Department of Political Affairs at the U.N., described his team as "a technical reconnaissance mission."

The Iraqi government, which has greeted the deal as a step towards the removal of the embargo, is taking measures to translate it into action as quickly as possible.

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, in remarks published on Friday, told his ministers to prepare all prerequisites necessary for a "swift and comprehensive accommodation of food and health supplies and other goods related to humanitarian needs in line with the memorandum of understanding Iraq signed with U.N. last month."

Settlers take over another building in Hebron

HEBRON, West Bank (AFP) — Jewish settlers took over an abandoned house in Hebron on Friday, the second time in three days they have moved to expand their holdings in the volatile West Bank city, Palestinian residents said.

Residents said the settlers began building a new roof on the structure, which is located near the Jewish neighbourhood of Beit Hadassah outside the Hebron market.

A spokesman for the settlers, Noam Arnon, denied there were any plans to move Jews into the house, but was unable to explain the work undertaken on the roof.

On Wednesday settlers took over another structure in Hebron which local officials said was an ancient hammam, or Arab bath house, located on land under the control of Palestinian religious authorities.

Hassan Tahboub, in charge of religious affairs for the Palestinian National Authority, condemned the settler activity as a "provocation" linked to the May 29 victory of the pro-settlement Likud Party in Israeli national elections.

Under the terms of the Oslo peace accords, Israel was to have handed most of Hebron over to the Palestinian authority in March, leaving behind a small military force to protect some 400 militant settlers living among the



A SETTLER WORKS ON A NEW CONSTRUCTION: Hebron Jewish settler Yisrael Hadjadj hauls wooden planks as he works on the construction of a new room on the roof of an abandoned house inside the fenced-in Beit Hadassah enclave in the heart of town June 7. Settlers are showing fresh signs of life now that right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu has been elected Israel's prime minister (Reuters photo)

city's 120,000 Palestinian residents.

But outgoing Prime Minister Shimon Peres postponed the pullback after a series of suicide bombings by Islamic radicals, and following his defeat at the polls by Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu left it up to his successor to carry out the redeployment.

During the election campaign Mr. Netanyahu criticized the decision to withdraw from Hebron, but he has also committed himself to respecting the Oslo accords and has yet to announce a final decision on the issue.

Hebron, the last major West Bank town still under Israeli control, is holy to Muslims and Jews alike and has long been a flashpoint for Arab-Israeli violence.

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Israel refuses to allow Egyptian helicopters to land at new Palestinian airport in Gaza

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel refused to allow two Egyptian-made planes, a gift to the Palestinian leader from the Algerian government, to land at Gaza's first international airport Thursday because the landing strip's operating procedures are still under negotiation, Israel Radio said.

Yasser Arafat inaugurated the airport on Sunday with

the landing of a Dutch-made plane, a gift to the Palestinian leader from the Algerian government.

On Thursday, Israel refused to allow two Egyptian helicopters to land at the Rafah airport in the southernmost part of the Gaza Strip because the agreement for the air strip's operation

has not yet been signed, Israel Radio said.

The pilots decided to return to Egypt, the report said.

Israel still controls air, land and sea access to Gaza, transferred to the Palestinians under the autonomy accord. The two sides are currently working out

details of the airport's future operation procedures.

Officials have said that they expect the airport to cost \$48 million, of which \$18 million has already been spent. There is presently only one runway and the airport's terminal is expected to be completed within a year.

Jordan, Syria, PLO said less panicky over Israel

By Rana Sabbagh
Reporter

AMMAN — Leaders of Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinians feel that hardline Israeli Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu will be forced to moderate policy statements that endanger Middle East peace, Arab officials and diplomats said on Thursday.

But His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, who met in Jordan's Red Sea resort of Aqaba on Wednesday, could face tough times until then, they said.

"We feel there are facts on the ground that dictate to us that there is no need for panic," said a Jordanian official after the summit that urged the Israeli leader to stick to a peace process based on exchanging Arab land for peace.

"The three men seem to be more optimistic now after the Israeli election dust settled," said a senior Arab envoy.

"But they do not want to emphasise this optimism to keep up the

pressure on Mr. Netanyahu to continue what the previous Labour government started on the peace front — the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon," he told Reuters.

The Aqaba summit was followed by a meeting of Syrian President Hafez Assad, Mr. Mubarak and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah in Damascus on Friday to coordinate reaction to Mr. Netanyahu.

Mr. Netanyahu, who rejects Palestinian independence, negotiations on East Jerusalem or returning the Golan Heights captured from Syria in 1967, welcomed the statement from the Aqaba summit.

Officials and diplomats said the three Arab leaders based their optimism on several assumptions:

— Mr. Netanyahu will face pressure from Israel's main ally, the United States, which began the peace process in 1991 and could step up involvement after its own election in November.

— The new Israeli cabinet might not include Likud hardliners in main portfolios.

— Mr. Netanyahu cannot endanger the "peace dividend" apparent in overseas investment after detailed talks with the Palestinians in 1993, a treaty with Jordan in 1994 and the opening of diplomatic relations with a host of Muslim countries.

"Netanyahu can't sacrifice all this for ideological reasons... He will have to find a formula to reconcile his views with realities," an Arab diplomat said.

"But this does not mean Israel's main Arab partners believe it is going to be an easy ride... They expect to see movement in circles for quite some time."

The flurry of Arab diplomacy after the win by the Likud leader, on a platform vowing tougher terms in peace talks, aims to set a common front.

The current meetings could lead to a summit of 11 to 15 Arab countries, including former adversaries. The goal would be to meet this month in advance of talks between Mr. Netanyahu and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

By Michael Jansen
in Cyprus

THE "WAIT and see" phase of the coming to power in Israel of Benjamin Netanyahu came to an end on Thursday when Likud Party politics announced the new government's "guidelines."

These "guidelines" consisted of a "yes" to Israeli secular and religious right-wingers contained in a pledge to develop Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories and three "no's" to the Arabs, "no" to a Palestinian state, "no" to the division of Jerusalem and "no" to compromising "Israeli sovereignty on the Golan."

The "guidelines," not unexpectedly, said nothing about what the Palestinians could expect from Israel in "final status" negotiations but demanded that the Palestinians should end "terrorism," hand over "terrorist" suspects to the Israelis and halt "incitement" against Israel.

The message the government-to-be sent to the international community, the Arabs and, particularly, the Palestinians is that the Israel of 1967, "greater Israel," is here to stay; devise a strategy other than "land for peace" for dealing with this situation.

It was essential to get this message across to the leaders of Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia (not likely to be listeners to Israel Radio bulletins) who met in Damascus yesterday, but until 14.00 hours Damascus time major news dispensers like the BBC World Service and CNN had not broadcast the "guidelines" to the world. And at least one major news agency wrapped up the announced "guide-

Netanyahu's new guidelines may not help peace process

lines," published yesterday morning in the major Israeli daily "Haaretz," in speculation about who would, and would not be given a cabinet seat — appointments which remain for sometime in the future.

The world seems determined to ignore the "guidelines" formally agreed on by the Likud and its coalition partners. This is because these "guidelines" are unpalatable and unwelcome. The world prefers to play the ostrich and put its head in a hole in the sand. But Benjamin Netanyahu and his unpalatable "guidelines" will not go away. The world prefers to thrust its head in the sand because if Netanyahu's government acts on these "guidelines," Israel will put an end to the peace process which everyone in the world but the "new" Israel agrees must be based on the return of Arab territory in exchange for peace. Recognition of the "guidelines" would amount to recognition of an unacceptable reality which the world and, even, perhaps, the Arabs do not wish to recognise.

This reality is that, as Likud Party supporters put it, a majority of "Israeli Jews" (60-61 per cent) do not want to make peace with the Arabs on the "land for peace" terms. When it took this stand this majority made it clear it is prepared to accept the criticism and, even,

condemnation of the international community for wrecking a failing "peace process" — launched in 1991. This majority prefers territory to peace, "Greater Israel" to "Lesser Israel" and another hundred years of conflict to an eternity of peace. By voting for the Likud the majority of "Jewish Israelis" (minus the Palestinian component who voted, largely, for Shimon Peres) shunned the peace process, betraying the hopes and aspirations of the West and the Arab World which

remain committed to this process, however flawed and faltering.

The refusal of the Western media, of reporters and commentators, to give proper coverage and weight to the story of the "guidelines" is poor preparation for the long-term contestation to come. For the Arabs and the international community will have to wage a very difficult and even dangerous campaign against an Israeli government committed to such an action plan.

Unless confronted from the very outset, the Netanyahu government will procrastinate on implementation of key elements of Israel's agreements with the Palestinians and try to

occupy international mediators by raising a host of side issues to the central negotiations — on the "permanent status" of the occupied Palestinian territories, the Golan and Jerusalem. Indeed, the postponing of implementation of "what has been agreed" (begun and carried on by Labour) and perversion of the course of the peace process has already begun.

The issues on which the Netanyahu camp has commenced contestation are meetings between Mr. Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat (still regarded by the Likud as the "arch terrorist"), the use of Orient House in East Jerusalem as a Palestinian national office, Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron, Palestinian access to the Rafah Airport in southern Gaza and interpretation of April's south Lebanon ceasefire agreement following last week's Hizbollah attacks against Israeli troops in the occupation zone.

The Netanyahu government can be expected to use these and other issues — like, for instance, lifting the closures on the West Bank and Gaza and the transfer to Israel by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) of Palestinians suspected of "terrorist activity" — in order to divert the attention of the U.S. and the European Union (EU) and the international community from

the issues. And the Netanyahu go-government may even resort to the use of violence, in the Palestinian territories or against southern Lebanon and, perhaps, even Syria, to derail the peace process.

Furthermore, as in the case of the "guidelines," the Netanyahu government will count on the media and the diplomatic corps not to take notice and contest this strategy of diverting the course of the peace process. The Israeli aim is to compel the outside powers involved in the regional negotiations to address each issue, one by one, expending their time and energies on secondary or side issues so that these mediators have nothing left for the main negotiations. Moreover, during this campaign of attrition, Israel will give small concessions bit by bit until the time comes when the government says it can give no more. If Mr. Netanyahu is allowed to pervert the negotiations in this way, he will subvert a regional settlement. But prospects are not good. The fact that the Western news agencies and the major Western broadcasting organisations — CNN and the BBC World Service — ignored for many hours the "guidelines" of the Netanyahu government which were broadcast throughout Friday by Israel Radio in its regular bulletins, bodes ill for the peace process which the Arab World was assured would go forward to its "logical conclusion," to quote Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

PRAYER TIMES

03:51 — Fajr
05:25 — (Sunrise) Duha
12:34 — Dhuhr
16:15 — 'Asr
19:44 — Maghrib
21:18 — 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656
Terzian Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 632826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Lutheran Church Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 673691
The Evangelical Local Church in

Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking
Latin Catholic Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures above average and winds northerly to northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min/Max. temp.
Amman — 20/34
Aqaba — 24/39
Deraa — 18/38
Jordan Valley — 24/40

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 27 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:00 Ladies' singles final and men's doubles final
17:00 — Only
17:15 — La Vie Devant Moi
17:30 — Quel Le Le Melles Cagne
18:00 — Serie — Chateau Valon
19:00 — Le Journal
19:15 — Fast Pas Revue

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

20:30 — Nippon — The Land and its People
"Japan's Technology"
20:55 — Milner-Ferwick (Medical)
21:15 — Prison — "Domestic Violence"
22:00 — News in English
22:25 — Daily Summary — Japan Week
22:35 — The Bold and the Beautiful
23:25 — Feature film — "Heart of Darkness"

USEFUL TEL NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Makhles Hattab — 819220
Dr. Rami Sukkar — 856487
Dr. Ghazi Abu Stikhab — 752405
Dr. Mohammad Likhadeh — 683885
First pharmacy — 661912
Ferdows pharmacy — 778336
Al Azema pharmacy — 637055
Nairouth pharmacy — 626672
Al Salan pharmacy — 636730
Yaacoub pharmacy — 644945
Shamsi pharmacy — 676660
Najib pharmacy — 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ta'ammeh — 250880
Al Qals pharmacy — —

ZARQA:
Dr. Salah Al Safarini — 987540
Khalifeh pharmacy — 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre — 637111
Civil Defence Department — 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue — 630341
Civil Defence Emergency — 199
Rescue Police — 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade — 617191
Blood Bank — 775121
Highway Police — 854042
Traffic Police — 896398
Public Security Department — 630321
Hotel Complaints — 605800
Price Complaints — 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints — 874467
Amman Municipality Complaints — 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) — 121
Overseas Calls — 010230
Central Amman Telephone — —
Repairs — 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs — 661201
Jordan Television — 773111
Radio Jordan — 774111
Water Authority — 690100
Jordan Electricity Authority — 815615

Electric Power Company — 636581
RJ Flight Information — 08-53300
Queen Alia Intl. Airport — 08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hassan Medical Centre — 813813/82
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn — 642816
Akleh Maternity, J. Amn — 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity — 642362
Malhas, J. Amman — 636140
Palestine, Shamsi — 607071
Shamsi Hospital — 609131
University Hospital — 845845
Al-Munasher Hospital — 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali — 666126/97
Al-Ahli, Abdali — 664164/66
Indian, Al-Muhajreen — 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh — 775111/26
Army, Madaba — 391611/15
Queen Alia Hospital — 082240/50
Amal Hospital — 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 855199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital — (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital — (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital — (09)996732

Al Hikmah Modern Hospital — (09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital — (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital — (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafesa Hospital — (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital — (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
08:00 — Damascus (RJ)
10:20 — Beirut (RJ)
10:30 — New Delhi (RJ)
10:30 — Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 — Colombo (RJ)
12:00 — Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Doha (RJ)
15:00 — Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:20 — Cairo (RJ)
18:20 — New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

02:00 — Rome (AZ)
13:40 — Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:00 — Vienna (OS)
19:35 — Damascus, Dubai (EK)
20:35 — Amsterdam (KL)
21:10 — Beirut (ME)
21:15 — London (BA)
22:35 — Larnaca (CY)
22:35 — Cairo (MS)
23:55 — London (RJ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:50 Aqaba (QAA) — proceeds to Madaba airport at 10:00 a.m. (RW)
DEPARTURE
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
04:45 — Damascus (RJ)
06:35 — Beirut (RJ)
11:00 — Aqaba, Brussels, Amsterdam — (RJ)
12:00 — Vienna (RJ)
12:50 — Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 — Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:00 — Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:10 — Paris (RJ)
13:15 — Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:00 — Athens (OA)
04:00 — Rome (AZ)
06:45 — Beirut (ME)
14:30 — Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
16:00 — Vienna (OS)
20:00 — Dubai (EK)
20:45 — Kuwait (KL)
23:05 — Cairo (MS)
23:30 — Larnaca (CY)
23:55 — Paris, Damascus (AF)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

20:30 Amman (QAA) (RW)
HJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

Srouer ends 'successful' visit to Qatar

DOHA (Petra) — The Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Saad Hayel Srouer, Friday returned to Amman after a several-day visit to Qatar describing his talks with Qatari leaders as positive and characterised with brotherly atmosphere that "reflects the deep rooted ties between the Jordan and Qatar."

He said that Jordan and Qatar have agreed on forming a joint committee grouping members of the Jordanian Parliament and the Qatari Shura Council to pursue the question of coordination and cooperation between the two sides and help enhance bilateral ties and bolster inter-Arab parliamentary cooperation.

Mr. Srouer said the visit to Qatar "convinced us of the urgent need for common Arab action and for enabling the Arab states to transcend their differences and decide on ways to reestablish pan-Arab solidarity."

Addressing a press conference in Doha before his departure for home at the end of a four-day official visit at the head of a parliamentary delegation, Mr. Srouer voiced Jordan's full support for Bahrain in the face of the recent disturbances there.

"Jordan considers any Arab country as an integral part of the Arab order and we voice our support for Bahrain in enjoying stability and security," said Mr. Srouer.

"As to Iran, we maintain normal diplomatic ties with that country and I can say that these ties are good," added Mr. Srouer in reply to a question about Jordanian-Iranian relations. "Our relations with other countries are naturally good as long as the others respect our views concerning our own internal affairs."

Asked about the reasons behind Jordan's strained relations with Syria, he said: "We are linked to Syria through brotherly ties because we face a common destiny, and there is no rea-

son from our side for not maintaining normal ties with the Syrian brothers. However, we have our own method vis-a-vis the peace process and they have their own way although we started off on the same path at the Madrid peace conference. There can be no reason for not having normal relations with Syria at this particular stage which calls for concerted efforts vis-a-vis the common challenges."

Answering a question regarding relations with Iraq, Mr. Srouer said that Jordan has borne the brunt as a result of the Gulf crisis and has shouldered a heavy burden through providing assistance to the evacuees from the Gulf in the wake of the war.

"We support the Iraqi people's unity and Iraq's territorial integrity and hope that Iraq's ordeal will soon end," added Mr. Srouer.

Answering a question about the Jordan-Israel Peace treaty and reports about the Jordanian people

's opposition to it, Mr. Srouer said "Jordan is a democracy and the treaty was debated in depth by Parliament and was overwhelmingly approved by the it."

He said it is "natural in a democracy to have opposition but the decisions are taken by the vote of the majority."

Asked about the role of Arab parliaments in helping to bring about a pan-Arab summit meeting, Mr. Srouer said Arab parliaments which recently met in Damascus after a break of several years due to the Gulf crisis are expected to devote efforts to bring about a reconciliation among Arab states and pave the ground for a summit that would ensure the continuation of the peace process.

He said that the Arab Parliamentary Union president has been entrusted with spearheading efforts to achieve that goal.

Fuheis, Mahes residents to stage sit-in to demand action against pollution

AMMAN (Petra) — Residents of the cities of Fuheis and Mahes are still determined to stage a sit-in Sunday to press for their demands that the government tackle pollution problems caused by the cement factory despite a meeting a delegation representing the two cities held with the Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzak Tubeishat during which the minister promised action to deal with the problem, deputy Fawzi Tueimeh who was among the delegation said Friday.

During the meeting, speakers for the delegation also complained that in addition to the cement dust, residents were continually harassed by the noise of trucks and the explosions to break up the cement rock. They said that the dangers to the local citizens were increased every day because the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) has expanded its production lines without taking precautionary measures to reduce pollution.

The local residents demanded that a green belt be established around the

factory and that the lands recently appropriated by the company be planted with trees instead of used as a mining ground.

The delegation called on the ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs to build a ring road around the two towns and a tunnel for the trucks to avoid entering the heart of the residential areas and reduce the pollution.

For his part the Minister said he was against the annexation by the company of more land to mine cement and the ministry will stop the company from expanding its mining operations in extra lands, saying that the areas surrounding the factory are all inhabited by residents whose lives could be further endangered by the cement pollution.

He said that he recently agreed with the factory management to build a ring road and to plant more trees around the plant, and urged the delegation to cancel a sit-in planned by the townspeople for Sunday to press for their demands for action against the pollution the factory is said to cause.

He that a demand that the factory be removed from Fuheis cannot be met because cement constituted a major element of the national economy.

Deputy Fawzi Tueimeh, who attended the meeting, said that the townspeople are determined to pursue every possible effort to ensure safety to their environment. He agreed with the minister that measures should be taken immediately to help curtail the danger of pollution.

Later Dr. Tubeishat said that he had held several meetings with factory officials and agreed with them on a series of measures to help reduce the pollution, adding that the factory management was implementing all the decisions taken at earlier meetings in this regard.

At the end of the meeting, agreement was reached on forming a committee grouping the ministry, the factory and the local residents to pursue meetings and follow up the implementation of agreements on resolving the problem.

KDP delegation arrives for talks with Jordanian, INA officials

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to The Jordan Times

AMMAN — A two-man team representing the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) arrived here Friday for talks with Jordanian officials and the Amman-based Iraqi National Accord (INA) leaders on recent developments inside Iraq and ways to strengthen coordination between the two Iraqi opposition factions, the spokesman of the Iraqi opposition in Amman said.

The spokesman, Haroun Mohammed, added that the delegation, which includes Mohsin Daza'e, the person-

al representative of the KDP leader Massdu Barzani, and the group's politbureau member Hoshyar Zibari, would discuss with Jordanian officials launching a "mission" for the KDP in Amman.

"The delegation will discuss means to strengthen political as well as military coordination between the two groups and ways to speed up the political change in Baghdad," Mr. Haroun told the Jordan Times.

The KDP's delegation visit to Amman is the second by a Kurdish opposition group in less than two months. A delegation repre-

sented the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) arrived here on April and held talks with Jordanian officials and INA leaders and decided to open an office in Amman. Mr. Haroun said that the PUK would send a representative to Amman "soon" to run this office.

The government allowed the INA, which is headed by Iyad Alawi, to open an office in Amman and expressed its readiness to permit other Iraqi factions to establish offices in Amman. Last April, the group launched a four-hour daily radio service and said that it would publish a weekly newspapers, named

Iraq al-Moustaqbal (Iraq of the future). It has no military presence in Jordan but its leaders claim that the group has several military camps in northern Iraq, which comes under the control of the Kurdish groups.

Mr. Haroun also said that Mr. Wafiq Samara'e, the former chief of Iraq's military intelligence who fled to Syria and later on arrived in Jordan to live here, would return soon from Syria. He added that Mr. Sameera's visit to Damascus is a "temporary" one and he would bring his family and come back by the end of this month.

Queen congratulates first woman judge in Jordan

AMMAN (PETRA) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Thursday sent a cable to judge Tagrid Hikmat, congratulating her on her appointment as the first woman judge in Jordan. On Monday, the Judicial Council appointed Ms. Hikmat, 49, who has been practising law for the past 15 years, as a judge. Queen Noor voiced pride in Ms. Hikmat's appointment and wished her every success in carrying out her new duties. "I take this historic opportunity to express to you my personal happiness over your appointment, given your active participation and involvement in academic, scientific, vocational and social fields, particularly in the area of human rights and women's rights, and your contribution to the Beijing conference," the Queen said.

Nurses may freeze plans for strike after receiving government assurances

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Public nurses on Friday were studying the possibility of halting their Sunday strike in demand for better pay, after receiving promises from government officials Thursday that their demands will be fulfilled, Jordanian Nursing Association (JNA) members said.

JNA committee members met with Health Minister Aref Batayneh on Thursday who informed them that the ministry had notified the Ministry of Social Development of the nurses demands, according to Hashem Salameh, president of JNA.

"We feel that the government is serious about our demands and is taking a positive action to meet our demands," Mr. Salameh

told the Jordan Times.

About 2,200 government nurses around the Kingdom staged a two-hour strike Wednesday in all governmental institutions, in demand for a 90 per cent raise, instead of the present 50 per cent raise, in addition to their inclusion in an incentive allowance system.

Their Wednesday strike drew no immediate reaction from the government of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, and nurses vowed to continue with their strike.

Earlier in the week, both the prime minister and health minister met with the committee promising to study their demands, an action which was rejected by the committee then, because they were seeking a written commitment from the government, and staged

their strike.

"Government promises are taking a serious form and the health minister produced a written statement sent to the ministry of social development with recommendations for agreeing on the raises we have been demanding for the past two years," Mr. Salameh said.

After the Ministry of Social Development reviews the Health Ministry recommendations to fulfil the nurses' demands of a higher raise, the recommendations will be forwarded to the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers for endorsement.

"The nurses committee will meet today (Saturday) to study the situation, and most probably we will halt our strike until we receive a response from the government," Mr. Salameh said.

Poll confirms Al Rai is the daily with largest circulation, its columnists most read

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Rai Arabic daily is leading all other Jordanian newspapers by a wide margin in terms of its circulation and its columnists are the most read by the limited number of Jordanians who read newspapers, a recent opinion poll has shown.

The poll, which surveyed 1,200 people in the two categories of general public and opinion leaders, was conducted by the Strategic Studies Centre at the University of Jordan to measure public opinion on a variety of issues, including the performance of the government and Parliament and the progress of democracy in the Kingdom as well as the circulation of newspapers in the country.

But according to columnist Fahd Fanek, the findings of the poll on newspapers readership and circulation were not published "to avoid raising sensitivities amongst columnists and newspapers."

Mustafah Hamarneh, director of the centre, told the Jordan Times that even though all the findings of the poll are available to the public at the centre, it was not possible to publish the findings on all issues studied due to their huge volume. He said the centre also opted to stick to publishing findings on the major issues which it has been addressing for the last three years, mainly the progress of democracy in the kingdom, the performance of the government and parliamentarians among other issues.

But Dr. Hamarneh

admitted that the centre was aware of "the sensitivities" that could arise from the findings on the newspapers when it decided not to publish them.

However, Dr. Fanek revealed the findings in a column he published in Al Rai after obtaining them from the centre, saying the public "has a right to know" this information.

Dr. Fanek, a columnist in Al Rai daily, said the poll has found that Al Rai newspaper is the most read newspaper with 42.7 of the sample surveyed, or 56.7 of those who read daily newspapers reading the newspaper which was established 26 years ago.

Al Dustour daily came second with 29.3 of the sample surveyed and 38.9 of daily newspapers readers reading it.

The weekly Shihaan came first among weekly newspapers.

As for columnists, the poll asked those surveyed two questions: The first was "who do you read (among columnists)?" and the second was "how often do you read them?"

In response to the first question, Al Rai columnists came first with writers Tareq Masarweh and Fahd Fanek leading the list.

The poll found that 8.8 per cent of those surveyed read Mr. Masarweh, 8.5 per cent read Dr. Fanek, 4.6 per cent Fakhri Kawa (Al Dustour), 3.9 per cent Munis Al Razzaz (Al Rai), 2.7 per cent Sultan Hattab (Al Rai), 2.4 per cent Saleh Qallab (Al Dustour), 1.9 per cent George Haddad (Al Dustour), 1.6 per cent Taher Al Adwan (Al Dustour), 1.1 per cent Mahmoud Al

Rimawi (Al Rai), 0.8 per cent Khair Mansour (Al Dustour), 0.8 per cent Hamadeh Farah (Al Dustour), 0.4 per cent Nabil Al Sherif (Al Dustour), 0.3 per cent Oreib Al Rintawi (Al Dustour) and 0.1 per cent Ahmed Al Misliah (Al Rai).

Through the answer to the second question on how often a columnist is read a week, the centre concluded that the most read columnists in Jordan are Dr. Fanek with 1.6 per cent of the sample surveyed saying they read him consistently. Tareq Masarweh came second with 1.1 per cent, then Fakhri Kawa with 0.9 per cent, Munis Al Razzaz with 0.7 per cent, Saleh Qallab with 0.6 per cent, Sultan Hattab with 0.5 per cent and Ahmed Al Misliah with 0.1 per cent.

An analyst said that the most important finding of the poll concerning columnist and their readership is not who is most read as much as that non of the columnists have a lasting impact on public opinion, considering that the most read columnist, Dr. Fanek, was found to be read by only 1.6 per cent of the sample.

In his column, Fanek also quoted the results of a study conducted by the Consumer protection Society last year, which found out that the "best" political columnists are Mr. Masarweh, Dr. Fanek, Mr. Qallab, Mr. Haddad, and Mr. Adwan. According to Dr. Fanek, the study also found that the "best" economic commentators are himself, Abdullah Maliki (Al Dustour).

Deputy resigns from panel in protest over trip to RJ offices

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A member of a Lower House Of Parliament committee studying the affairs of Royal Jordanian (RJ) has resigned over a controversial trip his fellow deputies in the committee made to RJ offices in three European capitals last month.

Bassam Omoush, an Islamic Action Front (IAF) member, said in letter to house speaker Saad Hayel Srouer that his decision came in protest against the visit made by some committee members to RJ offices in Madrid, London and Rome without prior consultations with other members of the panel. The visit drew criticism in the media with one columnist saying the trip was unnecessary for the purposes of the committee and all the deputies involved wanted was a free trip to Europe.

"My decision came to express my disapproval of this trip so that no one will think that I approved of it," Dr. Omoush said.

In an article published in Al Rai columnist Fahd Fanek charged that the 12-day trip by Chairman of the committee Mohammad Abu Oleim, and deputies Ahmad Kassasbeh, Tawfiq Kreishan and Khalil Haddadin would not achieve any purpose but providing the deputies with a free tourist trip to Europe.

Dr. Fanek's column enraged the four deputies after it reached them on their visit London leg of



Bassam Omoush

tions and criticisms stating in his reply from London: "As for your claims that we're requesting gifts and suitcases (from RJ), I challenge you and RJ to prove that, because we are not among those who can be bought. I will demand that you prove your accusations in a court of law because you question our integrity and dragged our wives into your article."

The committee has been studying the status and performance of RJ for over two years in the wake of conflicting reports about the performances of RJ's offices in Amman and abroad.

On May 29, deputy Abu Oleim said in defending the committee's visit to the European capitals that the committee's visit was to review the general situation of the national air carrier.

Deputy Abu Oleim said that the committee was entrusted with studying the function and situation of RJ stations abroad and to seek a way to promote their services and activities to help increase the number of tourist in Jordan.

According to deputy Abu Oleim, the committee will be expected to finalise an accurate and comprehensive report on its trip to the European capitals and to clarify the details about reasons behind the national carrier's indebtedness and suggesting proposals to address the situation.

Deputy Fahd Fanek responded by threatening to sue Dr. Fanek in an article he published in Al Rai. "Your remarks (in the column) would not go unnoticed and you will have to answer to them in a court of law," deputy Kassasbeh said in his angry reply.

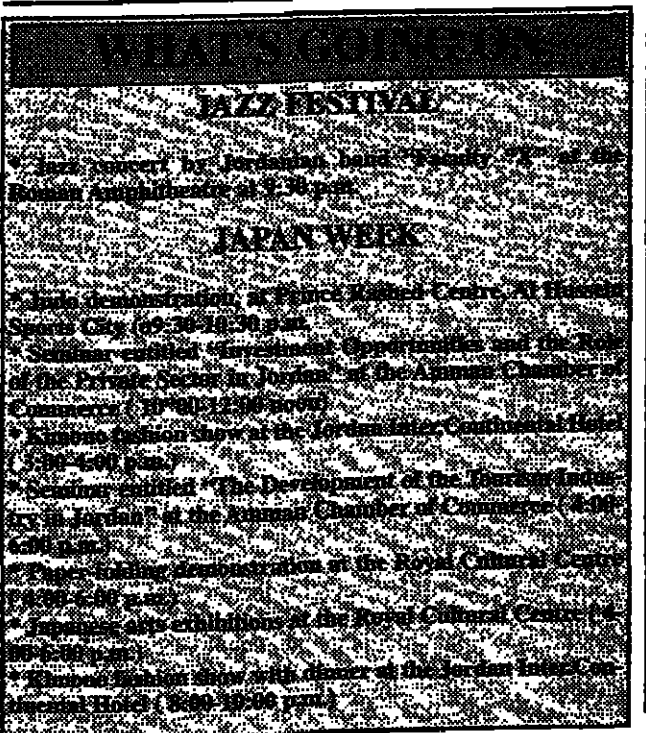
In his column, Dr. Fanek charged that the deputies chose to go to European capitals because tourism and entertainment were on their minds and first class air travel tickets, food, tours and the hotel bills will be paid by RJ.

Dr. Fanek went further to say that "it is not unlikely that the deputies will also ask RJ to pay for the gifts that they will bring back to their wives in order to make up for their sins," claiming that the lawmakers had asked RJ to buy them suitcases and fill them with shirts and hats to "protect themselves from Europe's sun."

Mr. Kassasbeh challenged Dr. Fanek's accusa-



PSD, GID directors promoted to the rank of generals
A Royal Decree was issued Thursday endorsing the promotion of Public Security Department (PSD) Director Nasouh Muhiuddin Marzouqah (left) to the rank of general as of June 6. Gen. Muhiuddin succeeded former PSD director General Abdul Rahman Al Adwan who retired from active service. Before his appointment to the new post on Feb. 15, Gen. Muhiuddin was director general of the passports and the civil registration department, a post which he assumed two years following his resignation from the PSD where he was serving as director of the Amman Police Department. Another Royal Decree was issued on Thursday endorsing the promotion of the General Intelligence Department (GID) director Samih Badraddin Al Battikh to the rank of general as of June 6. Gen. Battikh, a senior GID officer, succeeded Gen. Mustafa Al Qaisi who was named special advisor to His Majesty King Hussein for National Security affairs.



Moscow blast casts shadow on Russian poll campaign

MOSCOW (R) — Violence in Moscow cast a shadow over Russia's election campaign Friday when a candidate in the city's mayoral race was hurt in a blast outside his home.

President Boris Yeltsin, in Moscow after gruelling campaign trips, urged young people to vote for freedom and democracy and Communist Gennady Zyuganov said he would send an army of observers to polling stations to ensure the vote was fair.

The two men are well ahead of the rest of the pack in polls for the June 16 election, to be held on the same day as the vote for Moscow mayor.

If, as is likely, neither wins an overall majority, a run-off ballot between the two top contenders will take place next month.

Mr. Yeltsin, elected five years ago next week, sees his campaign as a crusade against a Communist revival. He has received strong backing from Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, whose running-mate was the target of Friday's explosion.

City officials said they thought the attack on Valery Shantsev was an attempt to sabotage Moscow's election campaign, which Mr. Luzhkov is widely expected to win.

The attack was the first serious violence in Russia itself before the Moscow vote and the presidential poll.

Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, a rank outsider in the presidential race, said he was the victim of an assassination attempt last month when he was punched in Siberia.

But police in the industrial city of Omsk described that attack as hooliganism and the former soldier who struck the blow said he was angry at

Mr. Gorbachev's political and economic reforms.

Violence in rebel Chechnya has also clouded the campaign and Mr. Yeltsin admits he needs to be seen to be doing something to resolve the crisis to stand a serious chance of reelection.

Mr. Yeltsin, who visited Chechnya last week despite reservations from his security officials, switched his attention to young people Friday and called on them to take advantage of today's precious freedom of choice.

"Your parents could not even dream of the choices which you have today," said an appeal to new voters.

Mr. Yeltsin said he was sure "young citizens of a free Russia... will give their vote to support freedom, democracy and reform."

"Vote or you will lose," he added, repeating a campaign slogan from popular rock concerts and other events.

Opinion polls show young voters are more likely to back Mr. Yeltsin than the elderly, who have often been left behind in Russia's race to reform its economy on market lines.

But the elderly, most of whom back Mr. Zyuganov, are more likely to vote than the young.

Mr. Zyuganov said the Communists would send 200,000 observers to polling stations across Russia. "We are preparing for honest elections," Interfax News Agency quoted him as saying.

Other candidates in the race include liberal economist Grigory Yavlinsky and ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who has a history of doing

better than traditionally unreliable opinion polls suggest.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy told voters Friday he was getting ready for a final push for the presidency and could be making regular television appearances in the final nine days before the vote.

Valery Shantsev, a running-mate of Moscow's popular reformist mayor in the June 16 election, was badly injured in an explosion Friday in what officials described as an attempt to sabotage polls in the capital.

Police said Mr. Shantsev, 49, was rushed to hospital with burns and shrapnel injuries after a remote-control bomb went off at the entrance of his central Moscow apartment block.

"I think it was a terrorist act deliberately aimed at this person and no one else," Vasily Kutsov, chief of Moscow Criminal Police, told a news briefing.

"This could not simply be a contract killing of a businessman because Valery Pavlovich (Shantsev) was not involved in any kind of business, as everyone knew."

Mr. Kuptsov described Shantsev's condition as "serious" but said his life was not in danger. He said Mr. Shantsev's bodyguard and a woman passer-by were also in hospital with minor injuries.

Mr. Shantsev, the head of Moscow's southern administrative district, is a former Communist Party official who emerged from obscurity when Moscow mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, chose him as his deputy in his reelection bid.

Mr. Luzhkov is a strong supporter of President Yeltsin, who is running for a second term in a national election on June 16. The popular Moscow mayor has little opposition in the local poll, but the vote might have been cancelled if Mr. Shantsev died.

The law says a candidate for mayor cannot run without a deputy and Mr. Luzhkov would not have had time to name a new number two.

"It is obvious that if this terrorist act succeeded the (local) election in Moscow would be wrecked," said Vasily Shakhnovskiy, a top official in Moscow administration.

Other city officials said the lack of a mayoral ballot on June 16 in Moscow with its 10 million citizens could reduce the turnout at the presidential election as well.

This could cost many votes for Mr. Yeltsin, who faces a strong challenge from Mr. Zyuganov.

Politicians, bankers and businessmen have fallen victim to a wave of contract killings in Russia as the rigid Soviet system collapsed. Only a few alleged assassins have been caught.

But the attack on Mr. Shantsev appeared to be the first serious assault before the Moscow and the national polls.



Forensic experts examine the site of a blast Friday which injured Valery Shantsev, who is running for deputy mayor of the Russian capital in the June 16 election. It was the first serious incident before the Moscow vote and the presidential poll taking place on the same day (Reuters photo)

Khmer Rouge official denies Pol Pot dead

BANGKOK (R) — A Khmer Rouge guerrilla official based at the group's Phnom Malai stronghold in Cambodia said Friday that leader Pol Pot was not dead.

"The report about Pol Pot's death is not true," the guerrilla official, who identified himself as Mit Chien, told reporters on the Thai border with Cambodia.

Pol Pot, who is 68 and is known to have long suffered from malaria, has not been seen in public since the late 1970s after a Vietnamese invasion on Christmas Day 1978 ended his reign of terror.

The Maoist faction has been blamed for the death of more than one million people during its "killing fields" rule.

Rumours that Pol Pot had died surfaced in Phnom Penh and along the Thai-Cambodian frontier Thursday.

"We've got no idea how this rumour spread," Mit Chien said.

While officials in Phnom Penh scrambled to try to confirm the rumours, Thai intelligence sources monitoring developments along the frontier also said Friday Pol Pot had not died.

"Up to this moment I can only say that Pol Pot is still alive," a highly-placed Thai intelligence source told Reuters Friday.

The Thai sources said the reports of Pol Pot's death were either the result of intentional disinformation on the part of factions in Cambodia or simply a mistake.

"I believe that the rumour was intentionally spread by a faction in the Cambodian government to encourage the people that the Khmer

Rouge is about to die," one Thai source said.

The radical rebels continue to wage a low-level guerrilla war against Cambodia's fragile coalition government from their remote jungle base areas near the Thai frontier.

Another Thai source said that though Pol Pot was known to be sick the rumour he had died was wrong.

"I double-checked with my men in the field and found that the report came from a field report which came from a rumour that had not been properly checked out," the second source said.

Thailand was a key supporter of the Khmer Rouge when the ultra-secretive guerrilla group led a United Nations-recognised alliance fighting Vietnam's army of occupation in Cambodia in the 1980s.

Though Thailand ceased supporting the guerrillas after an international peace plan was launched in the early 1990s, Thai security agencies are known to closely monitor developments in Khmer Rouge zones up against the Thai frontier.

Cambodian government and military officials in Phnom Penh said Friday they could still not verify the report that the guerrilla commander had died.

"I don't have any information yet," said Prak Sokann, a senior adviser to Co-Premier Hun Sen. Information Minister Ieng Mouly and senior Interior Ministry officials said they were also still trying to confirm the reports.

Burma's Suu Kyi heads for showdown with military

BANGKOK (R) — Burma's democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi appeared heading for a showdown with the military government Friday after members of her party said she would go ahead with weekend public gatherings outside her home.

A senior government official told Reuters by telephone from Rangoon the military had told Ms. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party that the weekend meetings disrupted traffic and should not be held outside.

"They can hold them but it has to be inside (Suu Kyi's compound)," he said, denying reports the government had banned the gatherings which attract thousands of democracy supporters.

"Over the past few weeks there have been a lot of traffic problems because of the meetings, and many complaints. They have been informed to move them inside," said the official, who requested anonymity.

But a senior NLD member said the party planned to proceed with the weekend public speeches as usual.

Tin Oo, deputy secretary general of the NLD, said by telephone from Rangoon the government had not banned the popular gatherings.

"We haven't received any official message," he said. Rumours swept Rangoon Thursday that the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) may have banned the weekend speeches, starting Saturday.

The hour-long speeches — given by Ms. Suu Kyi Saturdays and Ms. Suu Kyi, Mr. Tin Oo and deputy NLD Secretary General Kyi Maung Sundays — have gained in popularity since they began after Ms. Suu Kyi was released from six years under house arrest last July.

Crowds of up to 10,000 people have gathered each day over the past two weekends to hear the speeches, delivered over the front gates of Ms. Suu Kyi's home, and give support to the NLD, which has been the target of a new crackdown by the SLORC.

The peaceful crowds chant slogans and cheer Ms. Suu Kyi but stay behind barricades erected by traffic police to keep people from flowing out on to busy University Avenue.

Mr. Tin Oo said he, Ms. Suu Kyi and Mr. Kyi Maung would speak as scheduled.

"We will if possible meet the people. The NLD is a party of the people... We have met the people for 11 months already and have not been found guilty of any violations of law and order."

"I hope Saturday will be normal as usual."

A reinvigorated NLD emerged confident from a three-day party congress in late May, which was held despite sweeping arrests of democracy politicians and intimidation by the SLORC.

The NLD won a landslide victory in a 1990 election, but the results were never recognised by the SLORC.

Separately, Burma's official media said the NLD risked being outlawed and having its members jailed.



President Boris Yeltsin kisses a hand of a girl wearing a folk dress during a welcome ceremony in a village near Tver, northwest of Moscow. Mr. Yeltsin toured Tver region as part of his campaign (Reuters photo)

Irish talks agenda greeted with hostility

LONDON (R) — British and Irish ministers announced a complex compromise agenda for Northern Ireland peace talks but it was immediately rejected by key participants.

Former U.S. Senator George Mitchell, who was last year asked to break a deadlock in the peace process over the scrapping of guerrilla weapons, will chair the talks starting in Belfast Monday.

But, apparently to appease Protestant Unionists who have objected to U.S. participation in the talks, fearing it would be sympathetic to their Catholic rivals, two other envoys will lead parts of the negotiations.

Even so, the Unionists were enraged. "I could not and I do not agree to him (Mitchell) having a role in these discussions until I have been able to satisfy myself that he will be acting in a purely independent manner, will not be exercising any political function and will have as his objective securing the implementation of his report as a whole," said David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party.

The Ulster Unionists won the biggest share of the vote in an election last week to choose representatives at the talks.

Ian Paisley, the formidable leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, called Mr. Mitchell's appointment "outrageous."

And a British member of parliament threatened to resign from the ruling Conservative Party over Mr. Mitchell's appointment.

"Why do we need a foreigner, who happens to be to be an Irish-American Catholic from the Clinton-Kennedy school? Why do we need him sitting there at all?" said Terry Dicks.

Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Catholic Irish Republican Army (IRA), won 15 per cent of the vote in last week's election — its best performance in any poll — but it will not be allowed into the talks until the IRA resumes a ceasefire it abandoned in February.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams says he will turn up for the talks Monday anyway, arguing that the party's significant share of the vote gives it the right to take part in the negotiations.

The agenda for the peace talks was hammered out over three days in London by Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew and Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring.

Retired Canadian General John De Chastelain will be in charge of the so-called "second strand" of negotiations, which will cover political relations between British-ruled Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic to the south.

Former Finnish Prime Minister Harri Holkeri has been asked to act as alternate chairman of the committees set up as part of

the talks.

Gen. De Chastelain and Mr. Holkeri were on the international panel led by Mr. Mitchell that advised Britain earlier this year on the disposal of the weapons used in the 25-year guerrilla war between pro-British Protestants and pro-Irish Catholics.

The conflict claimed more than 3,000 lives. The disarmament issue remains a thorny one. While the Mitchell panel's report concluded that the weapons could be handed over while talks were going on, Unionists are demanding that this take place at an early stage.

The IRA, meanwhile, is still refusing to resume the 18-month ceasefire it ended on Feb. 9 with a huge bomb in London in protest at what it called British intransigence in peace negotiations.

U.S. President Bill Clinton joined spring Thursday in appealing to the IRA to call a new truce so that Sinn Fein can take part in the talks.

The negotiations "offered a real chance to set aside the past and negotiate a future of hope and promise, justice and peace," Mr. Clinton said.

Meanwhile British anti-terrorist police have detained four men in connection with the IRA bombing of London's Canary Wharf in February which heralded the end of the Northern Ireland guerrilla group's ceasefire.

Northern Ireland's Royal Ulster Constabulary police said Friday the four were detained by police and troops in the Forkhill area of Armagh on the border with the Irish Republic and flown to London for questioning.

The arrests were announced three days before the start of Northern Ireland peace talks from which Sinn Fein will be excluded because of the IRA's failure to suspend its guerrilla war.

Police said a fifth person was detained in London early Friday under anti-terrorism legislation and held for questioning into terrorist crimes.

The bombing at Canary Wharf — a towering new office complex in London's docklands area — was a watershed in the troubled history of Northern Ireland because it signalled a return to war by the IRA, which wants to end British rule of the province, after an unprecedented 17-month ceasefire.

The guerrillas killed two people in the Canary Wharf bombing and a third person, one of their own bombers, died when a device he was carrying blew up accidentally on a London bus.

They tried in vain last month to detonate a huge Semtex plastic explosive bomb under Hammersmith Bridge, a key artery in the British capital and a prestige target.

Taiwan urges China to hold summit

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan Friday gave China a top-level nudge to reconsider an offer by its president to fly to Beijing for a summit meeting with Chinese leaders in a new effort to mend ties.

"President Lee has said in his inaugural speech that at the call of the country and with the support of the public, he is willing to visit China," Premier Lien Chan told a news conference.

"(I) hope the mainland leaders can give it more thought and take it seriously," he said, referring to Beijing's rejection of the offer in Lee Teng-Hui's presidential address on May 20.

Mr. Lien, who this week was reappointed premier after assuming his elected vice presidential post, said Taiwan "absolutely does not rule out high-level visits" to China since this can help promote ties across the Taiwan Strait, separating the two rivals.

But he said the deep differences between Taiwan and China that have separated the two sides for more than 40 years could not be resolved in one meeting.

"High-level (dialogues), of course, can promote friendship, better understanding, develop personal relationship and resolve certain problems," he said.

But "it is important that the two sides first reopen their communication channel" so that they can discuss "practical, technical and political issues, even on cross-strait relations," he said.

China has suspended high-level, semi-official talks with Taiwan since last July to protest Mr. Lee's visit to the United States a year ago, a trip interpreted by Beijing as an attempt to promote Taiwan's independence. The Chinese Communists, who drove the

Nationalists off the mainland after a civil war in 1949, also staged six war games, including four missile tests, near Taiwan between July and March in an attempt to discourage what it perceived a growing independence trend on the island.

China, which views Taiwan as a rebel province, has warned that any attempt by Taiwan to officially break from the mainland would warrant a Chinese military attack.

Mr. Lien, who was reappointed Wednesday as premier, was to declare the cast of his new cabinet soon.

He predicted that in the 21st century, "Taiwan and the mainland (will) need each other," adding that before the two sides sign a peace agreement and resolve their political differences, Taipei would improve bilateral relations through commerce and economic measures.

"There are many common interests between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait," he said.

Taipei and Beijing should not waste their efforts over sovereignty and other political issues and instead should be pursuing common interests in areas such as trade, economy, science and technology.

He cited the examples of Taiwan permitting flight links with China-invested Air Macau airlines and the setting up of an offshore trans-shipment centre at the southern port of Kaohsiung to allow direct shipping with the mainland as a sign of goodwill.

"Most important is, through the legislation, to set up a special economic zone where all people, capitals, goods and labour (from China) can move in and out of the zone freely," he said.

Veggie bus driver gets in a beef over burgers

LOS ANGELES (R) — Bus driver Bruce Anderson has a beef with his employers — he's a vegetarian and refuses to hand out coupons for burgers to his passengers. His principles got him suspended and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) held a disciplinary hearing. "It may be an ethical principle to the driver but to us it's a case of insubordination," said John Standford, a spokesman for the OCTA, which serves the southern suburbs of Los Angeles. "It is a situation where if a driver does not choose to carry out a part of his job he will bear the consequences of that action," the spokesman added. Mr. Anderson was asked to leave his bus by two supervisors after he refused to hand out the coupons for free Carl's Jr. Famous Star Burgers as part of a promotional campaign between the OCTA and the hamburger chain. In a statement issued through the Orange County people for animals group, Mr. Anderson said: "I very much want to keep my job but my ethical principles prevent me from distributing these hamburger coupons."

5 decomposed bodies discovered at funeral home

NEW YORK (R) — Police arrested a funeral home director after finding five badly decomposed bodies in the basement. Police, who do not suspect foul play, believe three of the bodies have been there since January and two since April and May have been awaiting cremation. The gruesome discovery was made after the tabloid television show Hard Copy received a videotape in the mail and notified police. Police have charged Steven Marchi, 37, the owner of the Palaia Funeral Chapel in Coney Island, with health code violations.

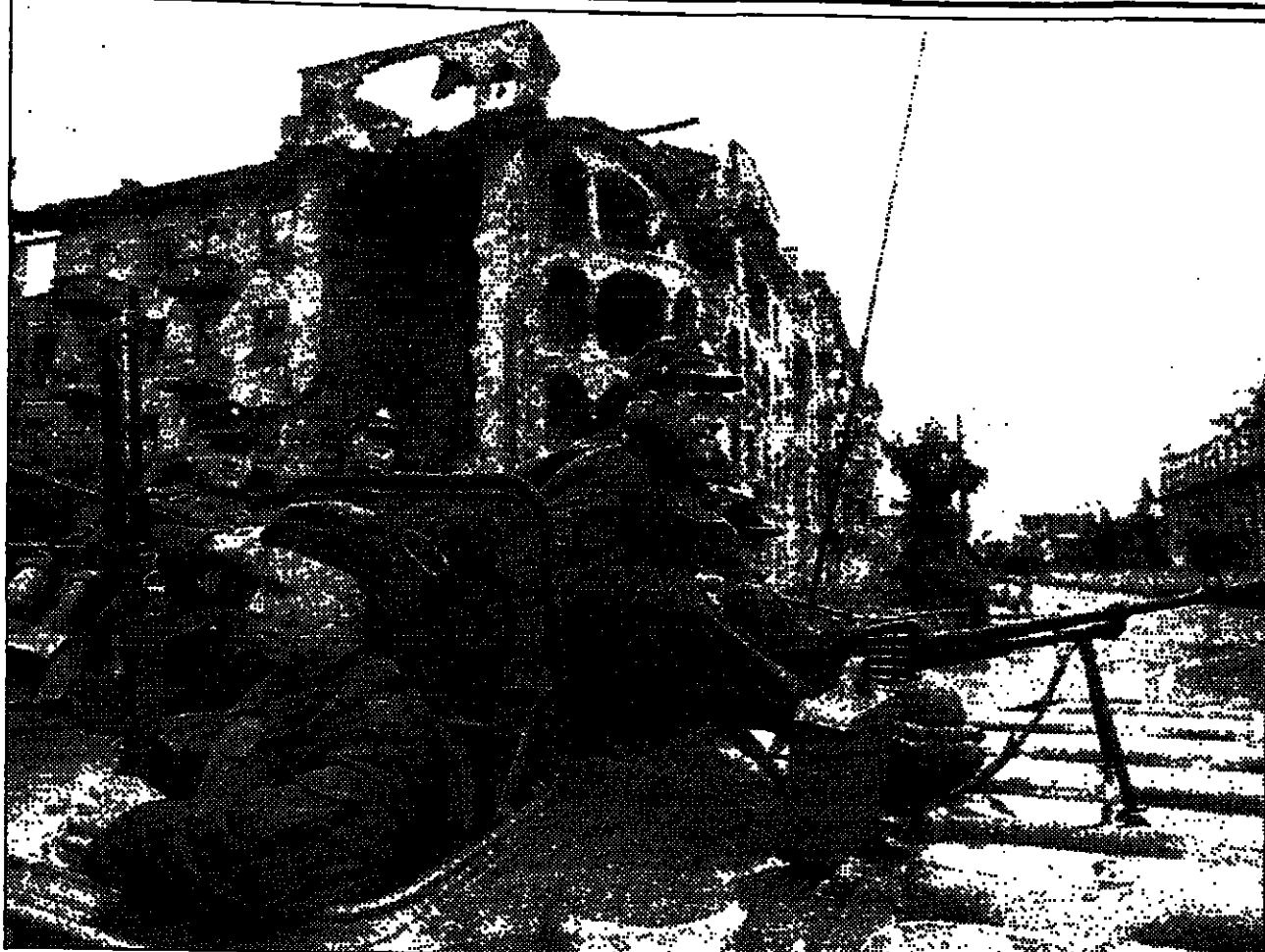
Hong Kong chef takes knife to demanding lover

HONG KONG (R) — A cook in Hong Kong was jailed for three years after he knifed his lover because her appetite for sex was too much for him, a newspaper said Friday. "Every night she asked me to make love to her three or four times and I couldn't take it any longer," the 36-year-old father of two, Chan Moon-Sum told a court before Thursday's sentencing, the South China Morning Post reported. Mr. Chan met his lover Tsang Yim-Lam, who was also married, while working in a food market and they struck up a torrid love affair, the court heard. Judge Bernard Whaley said Ms. Tsang was "clearly an assertive, very physical sort of woman" but he disbelieved Mr. Chan's claim that he reluctantly went along with her "unending demands." Defence lawyer Andrew MacRae described Mr. Chan as "a man at the end of his tether."

Peru witch doctors ward off birth of anti-Christ

LIMA, Peru (R) — Peruvian witch doctors held a ritual at Lima's main maternity hospital to ward off the arrival of the anti-Christ Thursday's much-fetted "6-6-6" date. Eight cloaked shamans from the Andes scattered petals around pregnant mothers, plunged knives into red devil dolls and danced around skulls, snakes, goats' feet and snake-skins to the astonishment of staff and patients. "Their chants and their loud maracas sounds annoyed the pregnant women a bit," said nurse Sancia Patel. Thursday was the sixth day of the ninth month of the ninetieth year, forming the number 666, the dreaded sign of Satan in the Bible.

World News



Special forces members of the Interior Ministry troops unit sit on top of an APC (armoured personnel carrier) as they patrol the city of Grozny Friday (Reuter photo)

Baku proposes Karabakh autonomy

STRASBOURG, France (R) — Azeri Foreign Minister Hasan Hasanov has said Azerbaijan was prepared to grant autonomy to Nagorno-Karabakh if Armenian forces pulled out of the disputed territory.

But he said Azerbaijan would not accept Armenia's demands for the independence of the enclave.

"We are ready to grant autonomy to Nagorno-Karabakh...on condition there is a complete and unconditional withdrawal of (Armenian) Armed Forces," he told a news conference during a visit to Council of Europe.

"Azerbaijan cannot grant (Nagorno-Karabakh) independence. We hope that the international community will ask Armenia to moderate its demands."

He added there would have to be a restoration of Azeri territorial integrity and a return of refugees and "Armenia and Azerbaijan could examine together the

rights of minorities."

An uneasy ceasefire has prevailed in Nagorno-Karabakh since May 1994 after ethnic Armenians drove Azeris from the region, which represents around 20 per cent of Azerbaijan's territory.

Mr. Hasanov said Azerbaijan's dispute with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh "is not an obstacle but is an additional reason" for the 39-nation Council of Europe to accept Baku's bid for membership.

Experts from the Strasbourg-based council, which promotes democracy and human rights in Europe, will examine Baku's legislation, institutions and democracy later this year as part of normal procedure for admitting a new member.

Council officials said Azerbaijan might obtain temporary special guest status, as held by its neighbours Armenia and Georgia, from the end of this month.

4 people leave Montana Freeman ranch

JORDAN, Montana (R) — A family of four Thursday voluntarily left a ranch where an anti-government group known as the Freemen has been holed up, signalling a key break in the 10-week standoff.

The departure followed steps in the past week by federal authorities to tighten the noose around the group which has refused to leave the remote ranch for 74 days. The FBI has shut off electricity to the ranch, moved armoured vehicles into the vicinity and flown a helicopter over the area.

In Washington, Justice Department spokesman Carl Stern identified the four who left the compound as Elwin Ward, Tamara Mangum, who also goes by the name of Gloria Ward and her two daughters, Jaylynn Joy Mangum, 8 and Courtney Joy Christensen, 10.

Mr. Stern said Gloria Ward had been wanted for a child custody violation in Utah, but it had been dismissed by a judge.

There are no federal charges pending against either adult.

The four were driven by convoy to FBI headquarters at the county fairgrounds, followed by more than a dozen media vehicles. Gloria Ward was seen on the FBI grounds walking with her two daughters.

Mr. Stern said the family was released in response to pleas from Gloria Ward's sister, who had visited the Montana ranch.

Mr. Stern said the two children were expected to spend the night with officials in the State Department of Health and Human Services.

Earlier in the day an unidentified woman was driven to the Freeman compound by FBI agents, and Wednesday one of the Freeman met with the FBI. There has been concern about the two youngsters on the ranch, and mediators visiting the compound had focused their efforts on getting the children out.

There is one other child believed to still be in the Freeman compound, and 16 adults.

The standoff began on March 25 when FBI agents arrested two Freeman leaders who are charged with taking part in a \$1.8 million check fraud scheme, threatening government officials and stealing equipment at gunpoint from a television news crew. Several of the Freeman who refuse to leave the ranch face similar charges.

The Freeman reject government authority and hold white supremacist "Christian Identity" religious beliefs.

Chechenya's negotiators play hardball ahead of Russian polls

NAZRAN, Russia (AFP) — Chechen rebel negotiators are playing hardball with their Russian counterparts, hoping to extract the biggest concessions possible from them ahead of the presidential elections.

Although Russian military forces have made huge gains this year, the Chechens have a key card in that the Kremlin is desperate to maintain the week-long ceasefire at least up to President Boris Yeltsin's reelection bid on June 16.

Late Thursday, almost 20 hours of talks spread over three days ended without agreement in Nazran, Ingushetia, with both sides refusing to give way.

Earlier, the two sides had agreed in principle to exchange lists of prisoners by next Monday with a full prisoner swap soon after. But on Thursday, the Chechens, who declared independence in 1991 and have been fighting the Russian army for 18 months, backed off and refused to sign.

If the talks resume as scheduled Sunday, the Chechens, who want to broaden the agenda to a Russian troop withdrawal and a way to decide the political status of Chechenya, can be expected to keep up the pressure.

"We will know from the start of negotiations Sunday whether we are going to have peace or war," separatist spokesman Movladi Udugov said.

The negotiations were agreed to in an unprecedented meeting at the Kremlin between Mr. Yeltsin and Chechen separatist President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev on May 27. It was the first time since he ordered the war that Mr. Yeltsin had agreed to negotiate in person.

That meeting produced a ceasefire which went into effect June 1 and has been largely respected.

Although nothing has been achieved in the first round, the fact the talks are taking place at all has been seen as hopeful.

"As long as the process continues, there is reason to hope," said Tim Guldin, head of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe mission which helped mediate the talks.

But the negotiations have a long way to go before they achieve anything more long-term than a ceasefire which gives the rebels a respite and helps get Mr. Yeltsin reelected.

Similar talks in the summer of 1995 broke down after an initial success and ceasefire when unknown assailants attacked the commander of Russian forces in Chechenya, leaving him in a coma to this day.

The first flashpoint that could ruin the talks this time is the holding of Russian presidential elections on Chechen territory, in effect underlining Moscow's insistence that the tiny Muslim republic remains part of the Russian Federation.

The separatist negotiators say they would accept ethnic



Natalya, a Russian servicewoman poses with her small son for a snapshot at Grozny airport as she stands in front of a Yeltsin pre-election poster (Reuter photo)

Russians and soldiers in Chechenya voting, but not Chechens.

Meanwhile, there is no sign Moscow will give way on the holding of presidential elections.

Beyond the elections, the two sides have to agree on the technically difficult matter of troop withdrawals and rebel disarmament.

Only then would the way be clear to a political settlement, the hardest issue of all, since Mr. Yeltsin has always ruled out independence for Chechenya.

The rebels, who insist their 1991 independence declaration still stands and that they have been invaded by a foreign country, have agreed to leave the matter aside temporarily and to reach a decision through a referendum.

Sri Lanka rebels kill 11 in aborted attack on town

COLOMBO (R) — Separatist Tamil guerrillas ambushed a police patrol in northeastern Sri Lanka Friday, killing at least 11 people, defence sources said.

A large group of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ambushed the foot patrol near the town of Welikanda in northeastern Polonnaruwa district, the sources said.

"We believe the terrorists were planning to attack Welikanda but were side-tracked when they came upon the foot patrol about five kilometres (three miles) outside the town," one source told Reuters.

Welikanda, about 200 kilometres northeast of Colombo, borders the homeland that the LTTE is fighting for in Sri Lanka's north and east. The town is a bustling transit point for passengers and goods.

The sources said the fighting came close to the town, with a rebel mortar bomb narrowly missing a petrol station.

At least 10 policemen and civilian homeguards died in the attack, and one civilian was killed in the crossfire, they said. Civilians in the area said they saw the rebels carry their wounded away on stretchers.

Homeguards are armed civilians who help police protect villages that

have come under rebel attack.

No LTTE spokesmen could be reached for comment.

The army drove the Tigers from their long-time stronghold on the northern Jaffna peninsula earlier this year, and the rebels have since stepped up their attacks on military targets in the east.

On Thursday, they attacked a patrol at Meesalai in the peninsula's Temmaradchi Division, killing seven soldiers and wounding two, the Defence Ministry said Friday. Two rebels were killed when troops fought back, a ministry statement said.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga said last year that more than 50,000 people had been killed in the civil war, which began in 1983.

Meanwhile India Friday rejected an appeal for help from Sri Lankan Tamil Tiger guerrillas, saying it would only extend help to "the legitimate government" in Colombo.

External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral told reporters here that India's new United Front coalition government "is committed to non-interference in the internal affairs of all neighbours."

Mr. Gujral made the comments when asked to comment on the reported plea for Indian help from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which

has been waging a bloody separatist campaign in Sri Lanka's northeast.

"We will give all help and support to the legitimate government of that country (Sri Lanka)," he said, adding that his government's efforts would be to build on India's friendly relations with Colombo.

The LTTE, which recently lost control of Sri Lanka's northern tip to government troops, has been publicly seeking support from New Delhi, saying the island's Tamils were India's sincere friends.

Tiger guerrillas were armed and trained by India from 1983 until 1987, when the rebels repudiated an Indo-Lanka peace pact aimed at ending the separatist struggle for a Tamil homeland.

Indian troops sent to Sri Lanka to supervise the peace deal ended up fighting the LTTE until they withdrew in 1990 after some 1,140 troops were killed.

Mr. Gujral was the foreign minister in India when the last of the troops returned home in March 1990 after failing to crush the powerful LTTE. India and Sri Lanka are divided by a narrow strip of sea.

The LTTE has also been blamed for the 1991 assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

S.Korean opposition paralyses National Assembly

SEOUL (R) — South Korean opposition lawmakers linked arms in the National Assembly Friday to block physically a vote for speaker and stop the new parliament from getting down to business.

Members of the National Congress for New Politics cordoned off the speaker's podium in a dispute over the ruling New Korea Party's poaching of deputies.

About a dozen colleagues stormed the office of the secretary-general of parliament, Lee Jong-Ryool, according to a parliamentary official.

The opposition demands that the New Korea Party expel members who have been lured from among independents and a splinter group and given it back the overall majority it lost in April general elections.

The National Congress, led by veteran dissident Kim Dae-Jung, and the United Liberal Democrats have teamed up to paralyse the new assembly.

Without an elected speaker the National Assembly cannot get under way.

Amid angry scenes at the opening session Wednesday, the acting speaker, a member of the opposition, declared parliament adjourned until June 12 to allow the opposition and ruling camps to work out their differences.

But the New Korea Party called for a special session Friday to force a vote after nominating a new acting speaker.

The secretary-general of parliament is an official appointed after all-party consultations.

Secretary-General Lee was prevented

from entering the chamber Friday by the group of lawmakers who occupied his office.

The New Korea Party, led by President Kim Young-Sam, won 139 seats in the unicameral 299-seat assembly in April, but now has 151 seats.

The opposition maintains that nine independents and three members of the splinter group, the Democratic Party, were bullied into joining the ruling camp.

It is also calling for a review of election laws, alleging that April's vote was riddled with irregularities.

"We will try again to open the new National Assembly by ourselves tomorrow," said a ruling party official, adding: "We don't plan to open the session by getting physical."

'Global warming is melting Arctic permafrost'

OTTAWA (AFP) — Global warming is melting the Arctic permafrost, the permanently frozen soil of Canada's far north, according to a new scientific study.

The six-year research project conducted in the Mackenzie River basin, which covers 1.8 million square kilometres in western Canada (Northwestern Territories, Yukon, British Columbia, prairies), revealed that the per-

mafrost has been retreating northward and thinning.

"The permafrost has shrunk back about 100 kilometres in a century and decreased in depth," said Larry Dyke, a geologist who participated in the study. He said "climatic warming was responsible for it."

Jim Bruce, chair of Canada's Climate Research Commission, said, "a lot of theories advanced about climatic changes were confirmed" by the study, the most exhaustive undertaken on the Canadian environment.

The melting of the permafrost raises serious concerns about the future stability of pipelines, buildings and industrial infrastructures in the region, specially built for the frozen soil, the study noted.

Ground instability could aggravate erosion and soil runoff in the melting ice, and increase

building maintenance costs, said Pietro De Bastiani, a transportation ministry expert in the northwest territories.

"Any change in the permafrost consistency could affect the stability of the Norman Wells Pipeline," which transports oil from the Northwest Territories to Alberta province, he said.

Water levels throughout the Mackenzie Basin have dropped, the study also found.

Jordan Times

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Moving towards better ties

JAPAN WEEK in Jordan will be launched today on an upbeat note as it will ride high on the strength and promise of the Jordan Week that was held successfully in Japan just over a year ago. The success of last year's event had found expression in His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's description of it as signalling the birth of a "new partnership" between the two countries. The fact that Crown Prince, Princess Sarvath and their daughter Princess Rahma went all the way to Japan to attend the week's rich and varied activities meant that this country was not only interested in strengthening our cultural relations with the Japanese people but also keen to develop our political and economic bilateral ties.

The fact that Jordan is hosting the natural follow-up event is a testimony to the continually developing relations and contacts between our two peoples and countries, as the Tokyo Declaration indeed has called for. And likewise on the Japanese side, the interest on the part of the Royal family and Government has to be appreciated. For there is no greater evidence of the close tie than the presence in Jordan of Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Takamado, who have come all the way to give the occasion added meaning and symbolism. In this context, we are pleased to note that the next seven days will be marked not just by festivities and celebrations, but also by serious deliberations and reflection on how to widen the scope of our friendship and partnership.

There is probably no need to over-emphasise the importance of the host of issues that the week will address such as the symposiums on the "Japanese-Jordanian Relations II," "The New Middle East and the Roles of Jordan and Japan," and "Japan Towards the 21st Century and a Possible Model for Jordan and the Region." For if Jordan is "the gateway to the Middle East," as Tokyo has depicted our country to be when we had our week in Tokyo in 1995, then Japan is the gateway to not only the Far East but to a new world order in which Japan could and should play a crucial role.

We cannot agree more with the proposal that Japan as an economic superpower and the inheritor of a great civilisation is willing and ready to perform its natural political role in today's world.

And indeed, as Tokyo's friendship with and support for a small and moderate country like ours have shown over the past years, Japan can serve as a leader in the construction of new international relations based on trust, balance and positive exchange.

It is true that much more work remains to be done before we are fully satisfied with progress made in our bilateral and regional relations. But we are confident that the holding of the Japan Week in Jordan will take us closer and faster towards that goal.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE MINI Arab summit meeting in Aqaba and its outcome served as a clear message to Israel that the Arab camp is committed and ready for a just and durable peace, regardless of the nature of government in Tel Aviv. Said Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer for Al Ra'i daily. The three leaders at the Aqaba meeting reaffirmed that they respect the decision of the Israeli electorate which chose Benjamin Netanyahu as leader of government for the next four years, but they also made it clear that they strongly adhere to the agreements concluded between the Arab side and Israel under Shimon Peres, said the writer. Referring to the other Arab mini-summit in Riyadh, due Friday evening, the writer said that the coming meeting should be considered as complementary to the Aqaba parley although it does not seem possible yet to bring all the Arab leaders together at one summit. The two meetings constitute a positive step in the right direction and could pave the ground for yet a larger meeting grouping most of the Arab leaders, especially those whose countries are directly involved in the peace process, added the writer. No matter how big or small the summits are, the most important thing, said the writer, is to emphasise the Arab Nation's determination to pursue the course of peace and reaffirm the Arab leaders' resolve to overcome all obstacles in the path of the aspired comprehensive and lasting settlement.

A WRITER for Al Dustour praised a move taken by the minister of municipal and rural affairs, Dr. Abdul Razzak Tubehshat, who, he said, suspended four mayors from their posts and referred them to court on corruption charges. Bassam Haddadin, who is also member of the Lower House of Parliament, said that this was a brave and responsible action which should be copied by all ministers to punish those who abuse their authority. The minister did not succumb to pressure or influence from any source and carried out his decision to the end, thus winning the government real credibility, said the writer. Contrary to what happened in the past, when corrupt people were allowed to stay on in their jobs, with detrimental consequences to the state's credibility, the minister took this painful decision in order to put an end to any attempts on the part of other heads of local councils to abuse their power or distort the image of the country, said the writer.

Jordanian Perspective

Netanyahu's gambit anxiously awaited by the Arabs

By Dr. Musa Keilani

THE SERIES of intensified inter-Arab contacts over the weekend, aimed at arriving at a unified position to handle peace negotiations with Israel, was coupled with a toning down of rhetoric by Israeli Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu. Perhaps this is a good starting point.

On the one hand, the Arabs are getting together after being jolted into the realisation that the new realities created by the results of the Israeli general elections might pose not only major obstacles in the way of a just and comprehensive settlement to the Mideast conflict. On the other hand, Mr. Netanyahu is sending signals that he is a mature politician who understands the basic requirements of peace in the region.

We should not attach too much importance to what Netanyahu aides have been saying, including their assertions that there would never be a Palestinian state and that a half-cooked "peace accord" with Syria could be negotiated away from the basic demands of full normalisation of relations etc.

We have to remember that Mr. Netanyahu is no stranger to Middle Eastern politics, he has not flown into Israel just in time for the elections and that one of his top priorities is to survive as prime minister of the state of Israel.

While it does not entail that his survival as prime minister would be threatened if he does not accept to respect the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese, the catch is that a good majority of Israelis does want peace and he could not simply continue to insist on

non-starter preconditions for agreements with the Arabs if he were to realise the objective which is a total end to the Mideastern conflict.

By the same token, the economic rewards — in terms of foreign investments — that Israel has been reaping over the last two years, after signing the autonomy accord with the Palestinians and the peace treaty with Jordan, are also very important for Mr. Netanyahu's economic approach.

The U.S., which has invested heavily in the Middle East peace process since it was launched in Madrid in 1991, will not simply remain idle if it found Mr. Netanyahu's policies to be reversing the progress made for peace so far. Given the inevitable economic setbacks in terms of foreign capital flow and the possible card of the annual \$3 billion aid that the U.S. could use as a leverage (as favoured by a majority of Americans) as well as European and international pressure, Mr. Netanyahu simply could not sit back and argue against making the compromises necessary for peace.

As such, it is not an open-and-shut case that the Arabs could not reach a comprehensive solution to the conflict with Israel as long as Mr. Netanyahu remains in power. With hawks like Ariel Sharon and Rafael Eitan and "ultra-orthodox" religious fanatics in his coalition cabinet.

It is no accident that we have been hearing talk of a "national unity" coalition in Israel. A partnership accord with the Labour Party would allow Likud leader Netanyahu the luxury of not having to be bound by the

dictates of the extreme right-wing in Israel.

The question that comes up here is: Would the Labour partners in such an eventuality still be committed to the peace platform based on an implicit recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people (as was evident in the party's decision to drop objections to an independent Palestinian state from its manifesto only a few weeks before the May 29 elections)?

On the Arab side, in the meantime, the summit that His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat held in Aqaba on Wednesday was the first concrete step in reaffirming that the Arabs would not settle for anything less than their full and complete legitimate rights as part of a comprehensive solution to the Mideastern conflict. Unlike the Likud "preconditions" — no Palestinian state, no return of refugees, no "division" of Jerusalem, no elimination of Jewish settlements and no return of the Golan to Syria — the Arab demands are not the opening gambit. They are indeed the spinal cord of peace in the region, and Mr. Netanyahu, being the pragmatic politician with an eye on political survival he is, should be the first to realise and appreciate that the time has come for the Israeli right to accept realities.

In this vein, we in Jordan and elsewhere in the Arab World are anxiously awaiting Mr. Netanyahu to show his cards by the make-up of his coalition government and his policy programme that would be presented to the Knesset.

The decline of 'Asian values'

By Gwynne Dyer

"WESTERN SOCIETIES are riddled with single-parent families, which foster incest, with homosexuality, with cohabitation, with unrestrained avarice, with disrespect for others and, of course, with rejection of religious teachings and values. The people living in such milieu... are as uprooted and directionless as flotsam adrift in the ocean."

— Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, 1995

These stern words of wisdom from the Malaysian prime minister must come as balm to the troubled soul of his neighbour and political model, Singapore's retired prime minister Lee Kuan Yew (who still wields enormous influence over the Singapore government). For Mr. Lee's lifelong campaign to protect Asia from the "Western" evils of decadence, disorder and democracy has fallen on hard times recently. People just aren't listening.

Mahathir Mohamad's contribution to the cultural wars was made in collaboration with right-wing

Japanese nationalist Shintaro Ishihara, in a book first published in Japan as "An Asia that Can Say No". Recently published in English as "The Voice of Asia", it shows how people whose cultural and historical horizons barely extend past the mouth of their cave try to write political philosophy.

Ishihara's triumphalist rhetoric is borrowed from the time when Imperial Japan was busy conquering its "Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere". "Oswald Spengler's 'Decline of the West' prophesied what is now unfolding before our eyes," says the Japanese sage. "In the new era, East Asia, once so wantonly colonised and plundered, will sustain global prosperity."

He must be talking about China and South Korea, since the stagnant Japanese economy is hardly a convincing candidate for the motor of global economic growth. But Ishihara can actually be quite funny when he leaves economics and ventures into culture, for he easily slips into the unself-conscious racial arrogance of the high-status

Japanese male.

One of Ishihara's examples of superior "Asian values", for instance, is the behaviour of the hordes of Japanese sex-tourists who flock to Manila and Bangkok. Unlike the kinky and corrupt westerners, he points out, "at least they were after normal sex."

Mahathir Mohamad, whose brand of "Asian values" comes in a less permissive Muslim version, does not comment on his co-author's typically unbuttoned Japanese attitude towards sex. But petty divergences do not matter: both men agree that the core Asian values are discipline, deference and obedience. As the family must obey the father, so must the citizens obey the wise rulers of the state.

This has been Lee Kuan Yew's refrain for three decades, and he never tires of citing Singapore's rapid economic growth under what amounts to one-party rule as proof that authoritarianism works best. "Democracy has not led to development," he said in Tokyo a few years back, "because (democratic) governments did not establish

the stability and discipline necessary for development."

Mahathir's Malaysia, of course, is just as much a one-party state as Singapore, though much less repressive in terms of petty rules about smoking and chewing gum in the streets. Ishihara longs for a more authoritarian Japan, and is appalled that the mounting evidence that single-party rule is effectively at an end there.

It is hardly surprising that such men would try to elevate their taste for unbridled power into a universal political dogma based on appeals to morality and ethnic pride. Nor is it surprising that Communist tyrannies like China and Vietnam welcome this outside support. (The president of the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, an unreformed ex-Communist apparatchik, even invited Lee Kuan Yew to come and be prime minister there. But in most of Asia, "Asian values" are becoming a joke in poor taste.)

It is all just a little too obviously the self-justification of autocratic old men. And it is all very uncool —

like the current prime minister of Singapore, Goh Chok Tong, announcing last month that the hallmarks of a truly gracious society were good toilet training and an appreciation of that well-known Asian, Mozart.

The servile Singapore media promptly praised the cleanliness of the city-state's public toilets and held up sterling examples of citizens who loved (and even played) classical music, but younger Singaporeans are growing cynical about such fare. Indeed, the ruling People's Action Party may even lose a few seats in the elections that will probably be held later this year.

The biggest flaw in the "Asian values" argument, however, is the fact that genuinely democratic Asian countries like South Korea and Thailand are doing just as well economically as the one-party states. And the ranks of Asian democracies are growing: Taiwan is the latest addition.

When Mr. Lee told an audience in the Philippines that their country needed "discipline more than democracy" President Fidel

Ramos replied: "Our hard-earned political achievements are in every way part and parcel of the national promise today. Because without them — without democracy — we cannot truly have development."

There is in fact nothing particularly Asian about "Asian values": they are simply the values of pre-modern societies anywhere, including the West. Lee Kuan Yew would have quite liked the West about 250 years ago, when allegedly wise rulers held absolute power, everybody respect their betters, the lash and the noose were in daily use, and women, children and other inferior beings stayed in their places.

It is modernisation that changed all that in the West, and it is changing it in Asia in exactly the same way. And the more successful autocratic leaders like Lee and Mahathir are in raising incomes and educational standards, the faster it will happen. No wonder they are so cross most of the time.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Real peace in the region hinges on Israel's keeping its end of the bargain

REVIEWED BY ELIA NASRALLAH

THE LOCAL Arabic dailies last week gave prominence to the mini summit held in Aqaba to discuss the peace process in the wake of the Israeli general elections, repercussions of the results of these elections, pan-Arab affairs and domestic issues.

Sultan Al Hattab, a writer for Al Ra'i, said that the Aqaba summit meeting between the leaders of Jordan, Egypt and Palestine created a nucleus for a pan-Arab summit which is necessary to chart plans for protecting common Arab interests.

What the Arabs need is determination and good will, as well as a clear definition of the kind of peace they want to have with the Jewish state, said the writer.

The Arab leaders should be clear about their support for the creation of an independent Palestine state, a legitimate demand which has been advocated by non-Arab and European countries, demanded the writer. He said the Arab countries' demand for peace would be futile if Israel reneges on its commitments and refused to exchange land for the aspired peace.

In the view of Taher Adwan, a writer for Al Dustour, the Damascus meeting grouping the leaders of Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia is another link in the chain of Arab meetings that would pave the ground for an overall Arab summit meeting which is necessary not only to discuss Arab plans vis-à-vis the success of the Likud leader in assuming power in Israel but also to ways to pursue efforts to attain a lasting peace in the Middle East.

The emergence of the Likud and its leader Benjamin Netanyahu at the helm in Israel constitutes a real danger to the Arab Nation in general and the Palestinians in particular because of their ideas and their ideologies in dealing with the Arabs, said the writer.

In light of Mr. Netanyahu's statements of refusing to withdraw from the Golan and implementing the deal with the Palestinians, the Arab Nation faces a real danger, he said.

The Likud's policies he added are totally in contradiction of the international norms and rules and constitute a serious threat to peace.

The Aqaba mini summit is not enough and the Arab leaders should start preparations for a pan-Arab summit to protect their national interests in light of the recent developments in Israel, said Ahmad Misleh a writer for Al Ra'i.

He said that to pave the ground for such a summit, real efforts are needed to ensure reconciliation and end of differences on side issues so that all efforts can be focused on the common issues facing the nation.

There is an urgent need for the countries closest to Israel, including the Palestinians, to come together and start thinking out ways for dealing with the declared policies of the Likud Party which came out victorious in the Israeli elections, demanded the writer, adding that the Arab countries are in need of peace and the restoration of their legitimate rights — a common goal for them and for the region as a whole.

Discussing the downfall of Shimon Peres, a writer for Al Ra'i said that the outgoing premier and Labour Party leader was brought down by two reasons. He said that the suicide bombing attacks that resulted in the death of 59 Israelis led to a shrinking in his popularity, which had soared earlier after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. Mr. Peres' failed campaign on Lebanon, which resulted in the death of civilians but did very little to thwart Hizbollah's resistance campaigns, also helped reduce his chances for success in the elections, said Fahd al Faxe.

Furthermore, Mr. Peres' undecisiveness over the question of withdrawing Israeli forces from Hebron and the Syrian heights, as well as the redeployment of Israeli troops, has given the Israeli society the impression that the peace process would not be in the interest of the Jewish state.

In addition to all that, said the writer, Mr. Peres tried to advocate the same policies adopted by the Likud, thus giving the impression that the Likud leaders must be right in their ideologies with regard to dealing with the Arab countries.

Mr. Netanyahu's assumption of power in Israel constitutes a major threat to the peace process, in the view of Mohammad Kawash, a writer for Al Dustour.

He said the new leader of Israel did not conceal his plans to perpetuate Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands and the Syrian Golan Heights despite his statements that he would remain committed to the peace process.

However, the Arabs must wait and see whether Mr. Netanyahu's statements during the elections campaign would be put into force now that he is prime minister or because he is now in a responsible position open to external and internal pressures.

The writer said that the situation calls for a wise attitude on the part of the Arab World and concerted efforts on the part of the international com-

munity to force Israel to abide by its peace commitments.

A writer for Al Ra'i warned that further extremism in Israel with regard to peace with the Arabs would naturally draw further extremism on the part of the Arab countries. Sultan Al Hattab said that the Arab countries surrounding Israel, including the Palestinians, have been stifling the voice of the extremist Islamic groups who had moved to abort peace with Israel, but wondered how these same Arab countries would react now if Israel unleashes its own extremist groups and terrorists to damage all chances for peace.

The writer said that the peace camp in Israel and the Arab World is facing a real threat because the extremists in Israel are having their way and they would be really embarrassed if the new Israeli government turned out to be against a just and lasting peace.

A writer for Al Ra'i daily criticised the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) for the method of dealing with subscribers who have failed to settle their bills.

Zuleikha Abu Rishah said that the TCC resorts to cutting off the telephone service, forces the subscribers to pay their bills either at the TCC centres or the main branch of the Housing Bank and cuts off the telephone service not at

the end of the month when people receive their salaries but rather in the middle of the month, thus making it very difficult for subscribers to pay and benefit from this essential service.

The TCC is also criticised for failing to respond to repeated calls by the public whose telephones go out of order but does not hesitate to cut off the service once the subscribers fail to pay their bills, added the writer. She said that the TCC does not care about the interests of the public whose members are forced to waste a whole day queuing to settle their bills.

Mohammad Sgour, a writer for Al Dustour, discussed the summer holidays and said that by the middle of June schools end but students are left without any means of filling their time with useful work for nearly two months. Parents, as well as students, normally wonder how the long summer vacation can be utilised apart from reading or watching television and the society, each year, helplessly watches great numbers of children play in the streets and be exposed to danger, said the writer.

He said the parents and the society have a serious responsibility in helping the children to choose very useful activities to fill their time in the summer, like sports, community service and the like.

Features

'Contemporary education is requested to benefit from Islam's teachings and principles, to spread and foster the ideas of international understanding and world peace for the benefit of the entire humanity'

Following are excerpts from the address delivered by Prof. Dr. Abdul Rahman Adas at the Muslim-Christian consultation on 'The educational system in Islam and Christianity,' organised by the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research, Al 'al Bayt in cooperation with the Orthodox Centre in Chambes, Switzerland, held in Amman between June 3-5, 1996:

IT IS common knowledge that we live in a rapidly changing and developing world. Since his first appearance on earth, man has been witnessing incessant waves of change and development that affect his life pattern and create around him new situations that leave their impact on his behaviour and work for the betterment of his conditions and for elevating him to better living standards.

Needless to say that in the face of such successive waves of evolution, man has never tried to stay idle or indifferent as if what was happening was of no concern to him. In fact, he has relentlessly interacted with and benefited from such change in developing his life system and creating new horizons around him, which he probed through his thinking, and tried to know more life aspects around him, discovering the new, modifying the old and emerging with new, relations linking him with his fellow men as well as with his surroundings.

Thus man landed and walked on the moon, and at present he is trying to discover life on a number of other distant planets to know their reality and put his knowledge about them to the service of the people of our own planet.

Nearly 25,000 years ago, the agricultural revolution took place which was destined to transform man from nomad, where he relied for his livelihood on hunting and shepherdhood, to a stable life staying close by the land which he farmed and utilised, to secure his daily bread in a more regular and self-reliant manner.

In other words, the agricultural revolution has created new life patterns for human beings which have resulted in creating primitive population concentrations and rather stable social relations.

At the end of the 18th century AD Europe witnessed what is called the industrial revolution; through which man was able to harness the machine for doing some types of work, particularly the hard ones. By using the machine in various fields of work,

man became more productive; the population concentrations multiplied and man's social habits became more sophisticated.

With the passage of time, this led to the rise of social classes with their various levels of wealth, ways of life and styles of living. But although the industrial revolution led to large population concentrations and brought closer together the local communities affected by it, it also led to the alienation of different nations from one another and pushed many of them towards wars and conflicts which were partly motivated by attempts to find foreign markets for surplus products.

The effects of the industrial revolution were much more significant than those of the agricultural revolution and its results were quicker in developing people's life and changing their mores and values and, consequently, in shaping their behaviour and life patterns.

"Hence, if education is to properly fulfill its mission and optimally play its expected role, it must effectively face these changes and developments, find the best means to tackle them successfully and enable individuals to interact with them in a way that makes them benefit from their advantages and subject them to serve their best personal interests and the needs of their daily life."

In a manner commensurate with the nature and life requirements of that revolution.

Nowadays, our life is widely affected by technology and automation. This automation came so fast and comprehensively that it affected the entire world. Among its immediate results was a sharp rise in the number of skilled and unskilled workers, which has been clearly reflected on the nature of employment as well as on the prevalent social patterns and relations and life styles of people.

In addition, this technological revolution has caused radical and all-embracing patterns of daily life, working hours and various work styles. What has made this transformation more complicated is the fact that this technological

revolution has been contemporaneous with the conquering of space and the satellite age and the tremendous progress achieved in the realm of communication, which left their direct impact on the life of different peoples and which transcended space. This technological revolution has, moreover, led to the creation of new cities and greater intra-state as well as interstate mobility among people in this wide world.

Hence, it can definitely be said that the distinctive quality of human life since its very beginning, until now and within the foreseeable future, has seen constant development, and that the difference in the quality of change from one generation to another, from one age to another lies in its speed and comprehensiveness. For things which used to take thousands of years to materialise in the past and which only affected a small group of people do not require at present more than a few decades to become an accomplished fact and to encompass many more people not only within one country but also all over the world, thanks to easier inter-communication and to the higher level of individuals' capacities and their intellectual, scientific and civilisational potentials.

As education is concerned in all societies with regulating individuals' lives, enabling them to acquire sound values, traditions and customs that are expected to formulate and direct their behaviour, making them more aware of the present reality they live, and urging them to look into the future to cope with its likely issues, education will undoubtedly be responsible for enabling individuals to face the changes and handle such changes in a manner which insures harmonious compatibility with them.

Hence, if education is to properly fulfill its mission and optimally play its expected role, it must effectively face these changes and developments, find the best means to tackle them successfully and enable individuals to interact with them in a way that makes them benefit from their advantages and subject them to serve their best personal interests and the needs of their daily life. This leads to the question which embodies the theme of this paper.

What are the problems of education in modern society? And following that, what is the Muslim attitude towards such problems?

To answer such a question, it can be said that most of these problems rise from the new outlook towards

the present reality we are living, which has been growing stronger, urging closer cooperation based on mutual respect and common interest of various countries of the world in a way that makes life easier for all peoples and helps utilise the products of science and technology and leads to active participation in the construction and production process.

Modern education must try to spread the concept of

"Modern education must try to spread the concept of world citizenship based on new values that achieve a balance between human spiritual and material values, implant the principles of understanding, peace and justice among peoples, foster mutual links, participation and inter-dependence and preserve the personal identity far away from isolation and seclusion."

world citizenship based on new values that achieve a balance between human spiritual and material values, implant the principles of understanding, peace and justice among peoples, foster mutual links, participation and inter-dependence and preserve the personal identity far away from isolation and seclusion.

Contemporary education must be concerned with providing individuals with a wide range of skills over and above all a broad basis of knowledge, enabling everyone to draw on and benefit from the various sources of information, so that they may become self-educated and capable of self-development and continuous enrichment of their stock of knowledge. This, of course, does not mean taking education back to the basics as modern reformatory movement demands, or directing education towards creating technocrats as some modern thinkers see.

International understanding and global peace

It is well known that the world, despite the long distances separating its parts from one another, has in fact come closer together thanks to the means of transport and communication. It has become easy for individuals to move from one country to another

either in search of work or learning, or to serve mutual interests and find common factors among them of one kind or another.

In the past, wars have torn countries apart, alienated their respective inhabitants from one another and destroyed their resources; the present trend of peoples as well as of their leaders is not to resort to conflict and war and hegemony, but try and find out participatory links of the type that insures the survival and continuity of each nation while making it at the same time a source of help to other peoples in their growth and development.

Such an orientation requires that every nation should clearly conceive its capabilities and potentials and acquaint itself with the qualities and merits of other peoples that enhance such cooperative and integrative outlook with various countries and peoples. Hence comes the role of education in how to inculcate in younger generations such new concepts so that they might firmly believe in them and try to realise them. What is required then is to free individuals from narrow provincialism that impedes their movement and progress and consequently isolates them from the world around them, reduces their proficiency and cuts down their participation in defining the frameworks of life around them, and in laying down policies of change and development that upgrade and make life easier and more comfortable to them.

What is required, in this case, is to nurture in the individual a sense of pride in his national identity and all the norms and ideas it carries, while, at the same time, be open to the world around him and feel that he is an active member in its development and progress.

It goes without saying that such an ideal will not become a reality unless international understanding and sincere wish to cooperate and participate constitute the primary moving power behind individuals' motives and behaviour.

For to disseminate the idea of international understanding and global peace among various peoples, it should be accompanied by an appeal to all to get rid of any kind of bias or discrimination, be it tribal, regional, racial or sectarian.

It is unfortunate that racial bias and discrimination practices have prevailed on a large scale during the last few decades and that some members of certain peoples are behaving high-handedly and haughtily towards other peoples motivated either by their

distinction in terms of colour, race, level of civilisation, scientific advancement or any similar considerations.

Recently, countries have been divided into developed and developing, in addition to divisions based on other criteria. No serious efforts, it should be added, have been made to eliminate differences among these nations and treat them on equal footing. Evidently, bias, bigotry and discrimination of various types are major obstacles facing international progress, understanding and peace.

Hence, education in our time is concerned with facing this problem and finding suitable solutions. In this connection, Islam has been ahead of us, since its early beginnings, in its endeavour to clarify the possible ways and means of dealing with the issues of world peace and mutual understanding and the necessity to discard all forms of fanaticism, and discrimination, thereby preventing one group of men from dominating and exploiting another. The teachings of the true Islamic religion have, through urging people to adopt the principles of impeccable faith based on love, fraternity, compassion and fidelity among all believers, laid

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down the sound and firm foundations of the propagation and consolidation of these concepts in the souls of human beings who believe in God and abide by his commandments.

Holy Koranic verses and the Prophet's hadiths are main themes and rational ideas advocated by thinkers, politicians and reformers who feel that the roads to world peace and mutual understanding are those leading various peoples to stability and prosperity and, therefore, towards cooperation and complementarity.

Islam is simply an invitation to good, love, tolerance, cooperation and justice. Its only criteria for distinction between one person and another are piety and

righteous deeds whose beneficial results embrace all society. So contemporary education is requested to benefit from Islam's teachings and principles to spread and foster the ideas of international understanding and world peace for the benefit of the entire humanity.

Just as Islam is interested in the propagation and enhancement of the idea of international understanding, it is also implicitly interested in the concept of economic integration and cooperation among all the peoples of the world in a manner that is conducive to beneficence and prosperity for all.

As the size of knowledge is growing steady and because means of conveying it have become so easy among various countries of the world, it has become a major duty for contemporary education to search for learning and teaching methods that enable students to go back to and directly draw on the sources of knowledge and then optimally utilise this newly acquired learning.

In more than one context, Islam has urged for deep thinking, augmentation of knowledge and proper utilisation thereof, because advanced learning brings man nearer to his Creator and consolidates his faith.

Muslims copied a great deal of the sciences and knowledge of other nations who came before them, benefited from them and developed what they learned. There were small informal groups that accorded due importance to translation, authorship and transfer of knowledge. The Arabs also did carry their developed sciences to Europe where they had a vital effect in kindling what is called the European Renaissance.

Over and above the issue of knowledge explosion, the overwhelming effect of technology and technical progress and the spread of means of communication, another important problem faces the educational process in various countries all over the world; for it is common knowledge now that improved health conditions and better nutritional systems have greatly reduced the rate of infant mortality and thereby led to a huge rise in the number of population. This, of course, has its repercussions on the educational process owing to continuously higher enrolment in both schools and universities. As a result, education in any country has been urged to provide basic learning for these increasing numbers of people irrespective of their race, social status or economic conditions.

Unfortunately, however, the potentials of many Third World countries do not enable them to offer educational opportunities to all those who seek and need them. Moreover, these countries cannot enforce compulsory education; and if some of them do that, they do not try to do it by force of law because of the inadequate educational means at their disposal.

Hence, modern education is urged to work out different means through which they offer basic education to every school-age child because the current educational means are unable to find the solution desired for this problem.

Linked to the necessity of devising new educational means that ensure educational opportunities to all school age children is an equally important issue, namely, controlling unemployment which is rising every year all over the world. Such a situation requires the educational process to find sophisticated means of education and training which enjoy a high degree of flexibility so as to make the learner capable of joining more than one field of work and to be, at the same time, able to practise more than one type of specialisation.

The labour market no longer requires persons prepared for a narrow specialisation and within a limited field modern education, therefore is requested to reexamine the methods of personnel training and preparation for required works and specialisations so that their eligibility and qualification for work and production remains effective.

Although it has not offered solutions concerning population growth, heavier demand on education on explicit treatment of unemployment problem, Islam has emphasised the necessity of every Muslim receiving his share of education. It has also made particular mention of the high status occupied by scholars and the high esteem God has accorded them because of their dedicated performance.

Surely, human beings cannot lead a life on this planet in a manner that secures their mutual cooperation, solidarity, amity and unity except through the adoption of the principles of equality, right, justice, dignity, collaboration and tolerance preached and stressed by Islam.

King leaves for U.S.

members. Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti, speakers of the Senate and the Lower House of Parliament and other dignitaries.

Before the departure, Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent.

In a statement before his departure, King Hussein said his visit to the U.S. was planned since some time to join his son, His Royal Highness Prince Hashem who is studying there.

"I was planning to visit the U.S. for a family affair, because my son Prince Hashem, who is studying there, will be leaving for Washington," His Majesty said in an interview with Middle East Broadcasting Centre (MBC) broadcast by Jordan Television Friday evening.

"I will meet with President Clinton and other senior U.S. officials for consultation. I believe the U.S. will continue to support the peace process to reach a comprehensive peace in this region," the King added.

King Hussein stressed that peace in Middle East has become a reality and a process which all parties concerned want to pursue.

In the interview, the King said the Israeli Premier-elect Benjamin Netanyahu has reassured him of Israel's commit-

ment to continue the peace process and to implement agreements reached on all negotiating tracks.

Describing statements by Israeli officials as reassuring, King Hussein said there is a global trend in the U.S., Europe, Russia, China, Japan and elsewhere to support a just and comprehensive peace in this part of the world.

The King reaffirmed Jordan's support for the Palestinians in their quest to regain their legitimate rights on their national soil. "We respect the Palestinian people's decision to shoulder their responsibilities and to work towards the restoration of their rights on their national soil," King Hussein said in the interview.

He added that Jordan will not interfere in Palestinian affairs and will not "impose itself on its Palestinian brothers," noting that the Palestinians decided at the 1974 Arab Summit in Rabat to shoulder the responsibility of their cause. His Majesty called on the Palestinians to cooperate and resolve their differences within the framework of their leadership. On the Jordanian-Saudi rela-

tions, the King said they are now stronger than they were before, noting that there is determination on both sides to base such relations on solid foundations. Answering a question about the purpose of the telephone call Mr. Netanyahu made with King Hussein upon his winning the Israeli elections and the arrival of a special envoy to Jordan last week, King Hussein said Mr. Netanyahu is fully committed to all the agreement Israel signed with all the parties involved in the Middle East peace process and that they are moving toward establishing peace on all tracks.

King Hussein said he does not see any reason for Arab pessimism caused by the election of Mr. Netanyahu. He said such pessimism is not in place "because what is taking place in Israel is an exercise of a constitutional right to elect the prime minister."

The King stressed that peace is a reality and there will be no retraction from the peace process. Commenting on another question King Hussein said the vote in Israel was not a vote

against peace as some might suggest, adding that Prime Minister Shimon Peres had earlier lost more than once in the Israeli elections, and as such his loss should not be interpreted as voting against peace.

Asked on the outcome of the Agaba Tripartite Summit, which was held Wednesday, King Hussein said all the conferees were willing to work, cooperate and coordinate together in the coming stages.

King Hussein emphasised that all the agreements between Jordan and Israel have been implemented. However, he noted, projects requiring further studies will be implemented when the studies are completed.

On the status of Jerusalem, King Hussein said sovereignty over the holy city should not be for any party, except God, adding that it should be a meeting place for all the faithful. He voiced hope that Jerusalem will be a symbol for understanding among the faithful and a symbol of peace between Palestinians and Israelis. The King noted that East Jerusalem is an occupied part, adding that it should be possible to reach an acceptable formula for the situation there.

Japan Week opens today

Continued from page 12

"Japan and Jordan in International Society", "Development of the Tourism Industry in Jordan", "Industrial Policy", "Prospects for Economic Cooperation Between Japan and Jordan", and "The Status of Women in Japan and Jordan".

Japan Week will also offer a number of opportunities for cultural exchange. Organisers have included in

this month's schedule a Kimono fashion show; a puppet and magic show for children; lithography, porcelain and calligraphy exhibitions; and flower arrangement and origami (paper-folding) demonstrations. A number of renowned Japanese films will be shown at the RCC, including The Glass Cape, Barefoot Gen, the Yamashiro Story, Tombstone for fireflies, Thousand Cranes and others.

A variety of talents have

also been recruited that will treat audiences to a Judo performance at Al Hussein Sports City, a play, Medea, performed by the Ninagawa Drama Company on the Jerash South Theatre and a number of traditional musical performances at the University of Jordan.

Organisers expect at least 700 people to participate in the various activities of Japan Week, which will close 29 June.

Netanyahu's programme starts to emerge

Continued from page 1

Mr. Netanyahu's decision concerning Mr. Sharon and Mr. Eytan was seen as a key litmus test of his grip on power as well as his future policies concerning the Palestinian territories and the peace process in general.

Israel's new system of directly electing the prime minister has greatly strengthened Mr. Netanyahu's powers both in negotiations on forming the government and over the responsibilities to be given to

each ministry. In his so far rare post-election speeches, Mr. Netanyahu has indicated he will use this new authority to ensure that the peace process continues despite pressures from the most headline elements in his camp.

Meanwhile a draft outline of the new government's policy programme also emerged on Friday, largely taking up the Likud election platform concerning the peace process. The draft makes no explicit mention of the Oslo peace

accords with the Palestinians but says the government will hold negotiations with the autonomous Palestinian Authority "to reach a permanent peace agreement while ensuring Israel's security needs."

As expected, the programme rules out the creation of an independent Palestinian state or any division of Jerusalem, which the Palestinians claim as their capital, and calls for boosting Jewish settlement activity.

Kabariti holds talks with Shaath Prime minister highlights importance of partnership with European Union

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Thursday discussed with Nabil Shaath, the minister of planning and international cooperation at the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), the distinguished bilateral relations in all fields and the coordination efforts aimed at supporting the Palestine cause.

Mr. Kabariti's meeting with the senior Palestinian official came one day after the tripartite summit between His Majesty King Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, held in Aqaba on Wednesday.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Shaath said the summit was a success and hailed it as an important step on the

path to peace. He expressed hope that it would lead to a larger Arab summit, capable of throwing Arab weight behind the PNA to help it reach a final and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question.

On his talks with Mr. Kabariti, Dr. Shaath said they discussed means of ensuring support for the Palestinians, in addition to bilateral relations.

Also on Thursday, Mr. Kabariti chaired a meeting at the Prime Ministry for members of the Higher Committee entrusted with holding international economic talks with the European Union (EU) to form a Jordanian-European partnership.

Mr. Kabariti stressed the government's resolve to form such a partnership with

the EU, in implementation of the agreement reached in Barcelona summit.

Highlighting the importance of this partnership, Mr. Kabariti said it will benefit the Jordanian economy, by opening new markets for Jordanian products and improving the quality of such products, to be in a position to compete with foreign products. The prime minister lauded the performance of the Jordanian team in the Jordanian-European partnership talks, and praised the agreements reached with Europe.

Mr. Kabariti also stressed the importance of reaching an agreement with Europe, capable of benefiting the Jordanian economy,



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti presides over a meeting with a group of economy officials Thursday (Petra photo)

The committee members stressed the importance of reaching an agreement with Europe, capable of benefiting the Jordanian economy,

and suggested that a symposium be held to discuss the expected outcome of the Jordanian-European partnership.

The prime minister agreed to a proposal to hold a symposium, involving members of the Jordanian

team to the European partnership talks and the board members of the Amman Chamber of Industry.

OPEC strikes quota deal on Iraq oil sales

VIENNA (R) — OPEC reached an agreement Friday to try to defend world oil prices by penciling in a rise in its production ceiling only to accommodate reviving Iraqi exports.

The Saudi Arabian-backed deal ended three days of talks of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

These centred on the U.N.

decision on May 20 to relax a 1990 Gulf war embargo and let Iraq resume limited sales, of oil at a time when the market is finely balanced and prices may be vulnerable.

Delegates said the accord froze all quotas except for Iraq which was awarded 800,000 extra barrels daily for its exports. It will apply until Dec. 31.

A new ceiling is fixed at

25.033 million — up from a previous 24.233 million excluding Gabon which confirmed at this 100th OPEC conference that it had left the group.

Oil prices initially firmed about 10 cents on news of the accord then eased to just above \$18 per barrel, more or less unchanged on the day. Some producers led by Algeria had, like defecting

Gabon, complained about what they regard as a quota system unfairly weighted towards big Middle East sellers who are unwilling to cut output to make way for Iraqi oil.

In the event, however, a delegate said Algeria apparently did not implement a threat to write a reservation on the OPEC accord.

Violations by producers that regard their quotas as unrealistic have already lifted actual OPEC supply above the new 25 million barrel ceiling — even without Iraq's exports starting to hit the market yet.

But OPEC hopes that brisk demand and the need to fill depleted stocks after a

cold U.S. winter will mop up the incremental Iraqi barrels and stop prices collapsing.

In sidestepping calls for a radical revision of quotas OPEC has at least spared jittery futures markets the unnerving spectacle of heavyweights like Saudi Arabia and Iran quarrelling over long-term market share.

"It's an old OPEC adage that a problem deferred is a problem solved," commented Peter Gignoux, head of the London energy desk for Smith Barney.

In the Saudi view, delegates said, any overhaul of the system should wait until

later when it is clearer how many barrels Iraq actually will sell, and how soon.

The U.N. accord sets a limit of \$2 billion on receipts from the Iraqi oil, which must be spent on food and medicine.

Gabon, absent from OPEC for a year, ironically chose this 100th conference to confirm to OPEC that it had decided to follow the 1992 example of Ecuador and defect from the group.

Some analysts predict that in the not too distant future OPEC will consist only of a core of big Middle East producers.

JORDAN ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION The Second Jordanian Mining Conference

The Jordan Engineers Association in Collaboration with Jordanian Government Corporation, universities and Mining Companies will hold the Second Jordanian Mining Conference in April 1997, within the following themes:

1. Mining Engineering
2. Ore-dressing & metal extraction Engineering
3. Petroleum Engineering
4. Water Engineering
5. Geological Engineering
6. Geophysical Engineering
7. Geochemical Engineering

An exhibition will accompany the conference. Researchers and companies are invited to participate. Please write to:

Eng. Mohammad Abu Taha-Chairman of the Organising Committee
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THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

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JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arghison

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GUHLG
EKRIP
TOUTLE
THELLA

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WHEAT CROWN MADMAN COMEDY
Answer: What the football-playing gardener did — MOWED 'EM DOWN

THE Daily Crossword by Robert Zimmerman

ACROSS

- 1 Painter of ballet dancers
- 6 Thickener
- 10 Iota
- 14 Chopin piece
- 15 Court goose egg
- 16 Sibilant sound
- 17 Lend — (listen)
- 18 John Alden's love
- 20 Anything but
- 21 Plant pest
- 23 Aquatic animal
- 24 Rescind
- 26 Homespun poet
- 27 Broadway musical
- 29 Memorize
- 31 Part
- 32 Encloses
- 33 Scribble
- 36 Marsh growth
- 39 Direct route
- 41 Resort
- 42 Innocent
- 44 Bruins' inst.
- 45 — donna
- 46 Hungarian wines
- 48 Lined
- 50 Without gender
- 52 Caravan stops
- 53 Horse with patchy markings
- 54 Underworld
- 57 Spark
- 59 Groucho, for one
- 61 Furnished
- 62 Shaving kit item
- 63 Calms
- 64 Unrestrained
- 65 Law: abbr.
- 66 Related maternally

DOWN

- 1 Unheeding
- 2 Sicilian smoker
- 3 Kind of warfare
- 4 OK city
- 5 Covering in
- 6 The beginning
- 7 Fossey subject
- 8 Marked by a keen interest
- 9 Legal object
- 10 Bleach
- 11 Handles for swords
- 12 Atoll
- 13 Former Kremlin VIP
- 19 College choice
- 22 Part of rpm
- 25 At any time
- 26 Hard blow
- 27 Globes
- 28 — garou (werewolf)
- 30 Dresden's river
- 32 Impulse
- 33 NM Apaches
- 34 At the very least
- 35 Pekoe and hyson
- 37 Disquiet
- 38 Spoke
- 40 Skywalker
- 43 Cone order
- 45 Lots
- 46 Expression of annoyance
- 47 Lawrence portrayer
- 48 Indy entry
- 49 Employing
- 51 Pass into law
- 52 Nee Christiania
- 53 Map
- 55 Early Briton
- 56 Gaelic
- 58 "— in the bag"
- 60 Rev

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Peanuts

SOMETIMES I LIE AWAKE AT NIGHT, AND I WONDER, "IS LIFE LIKE GOLF OR IS IT MORE LIKE BASEBALL?"

THEN A VOICE COMES TO ME OUT OF THE DARK THAT SAYS, "TRY SHUFFLEBOARD."

Andy Capp

"WE'RE HAVING A FAMILY GET-TOGETHER TONIGHT. MUM, A MEAL OUT AND A FEW DRINKS—"

"IT WON'T COST YOU ANYTHING, WE'LL ALL CHIP IN AND TREAT YOU."

"THANKS, F.O. BUT I PREFER MY OWN COMPANY TO THAT LOT."

"A BORN PESSIMIST, SHE ALWAYS SUGGESTS US OF PLOTTING TO MAKE HER ENJOY HERSELF."

Mutt'n'Jeff

WAITER! CLOSE THAT WINDOW!

IT'S AN awfully WARM IN HERE, SIR!

I'M AFRAID THIS STEAK WILL BLOW OFF MY PLATE!

WHAT'S THAT?

A PAPERWEIGHT, SIR! I WON IT LAST SUMMER!

HOROSCOPE
FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JUNE 8, 1996
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have fine ideas in the morning today, and you should put them in operation and use them wisely in an effort to receive the recognition of some bigwig. Later tonight will be good for spending some time with your loved ones.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Plan how you would like to have home conditions in the days ahead and later today get the career activities started on this. Later tonight you can go out on the town with your mate and have a romantic time together.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Sit down with fellow associates and regular contacts to work out a course of activity which can be mutually profitable to everyone involved in the project, and this will gain the approval of those in authority.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Go through with plans concerning fellow associates today, and everything will turn out fine and the days ahead will look brighter to you and your loved ones. Later tonight you can complete that important new project.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have fine ideas today for entertainment so carry through with them and gain much pleasure. Be more willing to accept help from others. Later this evening a close friend will help you with some important career activities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can gain favors secretly from one who likes you very much today, however go along with their ideas and gain added goodwill. Tonight you will be able to complete some important career activities which are pressing.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Look to a generous friend for the assistance you need to gain some cherished goal today, however show you appreciate the help given you. Later tonight will be good for you and your mate to go out on the town.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Study well what you desire where career and public tasks are concerned today, and then make a bit of headway. This evening will be a good time for you and your mate to stay home and have a very romantic dinner.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have fine vision today on how to gain more of the good things of life which you crave. Utilize them to their fullest and you will be very successful in whatever career activities happen to take you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are more concerned than most others to gain the approval of those in authority, so labour at it at this time. In the morning and later tonight you can achieve great success by your efforts upon a new project.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Situations arise through which you can gain more of the good things of life today, so be smart in how you achieve the answers to any questions. This evening you can be out on the town with some close friends and have fun.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Convince a fellow associate to be more cooperative with you today and the days ahead will become easier. Be happy tonight at home with your loved ones in some activities which everyone there will want to participate in.

Birdstone of June: Emerald — Citrine

Seattle, Chicago await Game 2

Young Sonics are learning, veteran Bulls adjusting

CHICAGO (R) — In last year's NBA finals, the young Orlando Magic let Game 1 slip through their fingers in the final minutes.

They never recovered, falling in a 4-0 sweep to the defending champion Houston Rockets. But they denied all the while that their finals inexperience was a factor.

Could the same thing happen to the Seattle SuperSonics?

The Sonics fell apart in the fourth quarter of Wednesday's Game 1 under the pressure of the more seasoned Chicago Bulls who won 107-90. Now comes Game 2.

"I think the biggest part of Chicago's personality that I admire is their mental intelligence, their mental heart. They adjust as the game goes on," said Seattle coach George Karl.

"They do it with a subconsciousness. Obviously they've been here before. Their experience is very valuable to them, and their leadership."

Asked if the Bulls' greater experience in championship series played a role in the Sonics' late collapse, Chicago's Scottie Pippen answered, "Yeah, that could be a factor."

But he added: "I think it had a lot to do with our pressure."

"They were a little nervous, I'm sure. But that wears off," said Pippen. "I think our crowd might have rattled them a little bit, especially when we applied the pressure."

Said Pippen: "They'll be a lot more relaxed coming into Game 2."

Bulls coach Phil Jackson saw a combination of factors: "It was homecourt, maybe a little bit, experience, and finally I think it was fatigue." Both sides agreed: fatigue caught up with the Sonics, who came off a tough seven-game Western Conference series with the Utah Jazz. The Bulls had eight days off, waiting after their sweep of the Orlando Magic.

"We didn't have the zip," said Karl. "I think Chicago had the zip last night."

The absence due to injury of backup Nate McMillan, a solid ball-handler and defender, meant Seattle's star guard Gary Payton had to play 47 minutes, mainly at point guard where as the playmaker and court general he is not as free to score.

"It does make me a little passive," said Payton. "When you're the two (shooting) guard, you can be more aggressive."

"Sometimes fatigue stops you from being aggressive, and I honestly think this was one of the few times Gary was tired," said Karl.



Chicago Bulls' guard Michael Jordan (C) threads his way through double team coverage by Seattle SuperSonics forward Shawn Kemp (L) and guard Gary Payton (R) in the second quarter of game one in the NBA Finals in Chicago, June 5. Chicago won game one 107-90 (Reuters photo)

John Salley, one of three Bulls who got their championship know-how on the Detroit Pistons, opined: "I just think they got tired."

The veteran Sam Perkins, the only Sonic with finals experience, had another explanation for the Sonics' turning over the ball 17 times to the Bulls' seven. "Carelessness," he said. "Just carelessness."

The Bulls spoke of the game as "a feeling-out." The Sonics called it "a learning experience." They phrases mean much the same, but the former has a ring of "been there, done that" while the latter seems to say "I'm growing up as fast as I can."

"We learned a lot about the Bulls, we learned a lot about ourselves," said Seattle swingman Detlef Schrempf. "They've been here before,

obviously, they knew what to expect," said Schrempf. "For us it was a learning experience."

"We're thinking about adjustments we have to make," said Jackson.

"We've always talked about cracking that yolk, breaking the egg, and that's what we got last night," said Jackson. "We'll find a way to crack their team just a little bit."

Michael Jordan, with Pippen the only remainder from Chicago's three-peat teams, said he has done a little learning himself since coming back from his base-ball vacation.

Jordan spoke glowingly of the maturing of several of his teammates, especially Pippen who he said "is a much better player than he was when I left."

"You've got to give him room to be himself," Jordan said. "It was hard but yet it was easy and I was glad to learn that lesson."

He said his minor-league baseball experience helped since he learned to appreciate athletes with little chance of making the big time.

"It matured me to accept lesser players with different motivations and different talents," Jordan said.

The Sonics sounded fairly convincingly upbeat about their chances if they just play a little more aggressively and cut down the turnovers.

Shawn Kemp, the game's high scorer with 32 points, said he takes "a lot of positives" out of Game 1's first three quarters, after which the Sonics trailed by just two points.

Final countdown for Euro 96 spectacular

LONDON (AFP) — The police are in place, the footballers are ready and impatient fans are counting off the final 24 hours before the start of Euro 96 — England's biggest sporting extravaganza since the 1966 World Cup.

And the revamped event kicks off Saturday in one of the most open finals of the sport's second most prestigious event.

For the first time 16 teams — instead of eight in Sweden four years ago, battle it out from June 8 to June 30 at eight grounds across England.

Though the winner is expected to be among the traditional favourites of Italy, Germany and Holland, plus perhaps England, potential surprise packages abound.

Croatia, France, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia, Portugal and holders Denmark cannot be discounted in the fight for the 10th European trophy.

But the fact there have been eight different winners in the nine events so far, with only Germany winning twice, could give bookmakers sweaty palms this summer.

And the 1996 event comes in an era when Europe's football prowess and political clout is growing.

Seven of the eight quarter-finalists at the 1994 World Cup were from Europe marking the continent as the world's premier footballing continent.

Lennart Johansson, Sweden's president of Europe's governing body UEFA, has been trying hard to increase Europe's political strength, as well as advancing his own ambitions to succeed Joao Havelange as FIFA president.

Johansson's vision and manifesto earlier this season spelled out his blueprint for a new world order where the six confederations would have more power and say in world affairs.

Europe would surely be the most powerful of the six. New individual stars are also expected to emerge from these finals as a new generation blooms.

Gone is Germany's Lothar Matthaus, who lifted the 1990 World Cup and the 1996 UEFA Cup for Bayern Munich. The veteran sweeper recently decided to make himself available for Euro 96, but Bertie Vogts decided that Matthias



Germany's Matthias Sammer (left) in action as teammates Mehmet Scholl, Stefan Kuntz, Dieter Elts, Thomas Strunz and Andy Moeller (left to right) look on during their first training session after arriving with the German squad for the European soccer championships June 6. Germany will play its first group match vs Czech Republic on Sunday June 9 (Reuters photo)

Sammer was able enough to fill the role.

Gone too is Roberto Baggio, who starred in Italy's 1990 World Cup semi-final run, plus their 1994 final appearance, where he missed the decisive penalty to award Brazil their record fourth trophy. This time, coach Arrigo Sacchi decided to inject fresher blood.

The celebrated Dutch trio of Frank Rijkaard, Ruud Gullit and Marco Van Basten, who guided Holland to the 1988 trophy, have given way to another bright young Dutch generation.

Germany's Oliver Bierhof, Italy's Alessandro Del Piero, Croatia's Davor Suker and Holland's Patrick Kluivert are just a few of the potential megastars entering their first major finals.

Hooliganism, a taboo word among the event's organisers, is a potentially disrupting influence in the running of England's first footballing party since the 1966 World Cup.

The Heysel tragedy, where 39 Italians died in Brussels during the 1985 European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus, heralded England's five-year ban from European competition.

Saturday's Euro 96 opening match between England and Scotland will be a test of the new security measures.

Arsenal's manager George Graham, was axed for receiving 430,000 pounds from agent rune haug following the purchase of two Scandinavian players, one of them Denmark's John Jensen scored one of their two goals in the 2-0 defeat of

Sweden in the 1994 World Cup.

Temperatures in England have soared in the last few days and the warm spell is expected to continue into the weekend, when the 31-match soccer competition starts with England playing Switzerland.

The evidence shows a curvilinear relationship between temperature and rioting," Stephen Reicher, psychologist and crowd behaviour specialist told a briefing on crowd behaviour, organised by the British psychological society.

"As it gets hotter people are more likely to riot up to a particular temperature, but then they are less likely," he said.

He said the breaking point for the English was around 70 Fahrenheit (21 Celsius), whereas the Italians could cope with 80 Fahrenheit (27 Celsius).

Four years ago Britain experienced a particularly "Long, hot summer" and rioting in several cities was blamed on the heat.

But not all soccer supporters were potentially violent. "If you treat them as if they were, you will increase the probability of violence," said Reicher. He said recent stories about hooligans obtaining tickets and conspiring to start fights could create conditions for trouble, by affecting how supporters are treated.

Germany in the last European championship final.

The championships this summer will also generate serious money.

Up to 60 million pounds (\$90 million) of profits are expected, and 50 million pounds of that will be shared between the 15 finalists. Should the games sell out, 50 million pounds will be made through ticket sales alone.

Interest in the games will spell about 5,000 media (600 at every match), 4,000 volunteers and 25,000 police, plus projected television viewing figures of around seven billion.

And the hyped packaging, passion and infectious euphoria of a major football festival will take off when Switzerland take on England at Wembley to end the anticipation of football fans worldwide.

Eric Cantona's kungfu kick on a Crystal Palace fan on January 29 last year, precipitating the end of his international career, threw up the farcical notion that fans may have to be protected from hooligan players.

Arsenal's Paul Merson became the first English footballer to admit to cocaine addiction and had to follow a rigorous programme to wean himself of the drug.

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Heatwave could mean trouble at Euro 96

LONDON (R) — Rain, known as God's policeman, is likely to be off duty at the start of the European soccer championships and crowd behaviour experts issued a warning Thursday that Britain's current heatwave could spell trouble.

Temperatures in England have soared in the last few days and the warm spell is expected to continue into the weekend, when the 31-match soccer competition starts with England playing Switzerland.

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Kafelnikov ends Sampras' dream, plays Stich in French Open final

PARIS (AFP) — Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov turned the French Open dream of world number-one Pete Sampras into a nightmare here Friday when he scored a ruthless 7-6 (7/4), 6-0, 6-2 victory in their semifinal showdown — played in torrid heat on the Roland Garros centre-court.

Kafelnikov, 22 and seeded six, now plays Germany's 1991 Wimbledon champion Michael Stich for the title Sunday.

Stich earlier put out Marc Rosset of Switzerland 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

The 24-year-old Sampras, who had fought so valiantly to survive a difficult draw and who needed to play three five-set marathons to reach the semi-finals, finally wilted in the record temperatures which reached 35 degrees centigrade (95 fahrenheit) in the shade.

Both players wore large white baseball caps as defence against the fierce sun which once again had the first-aid teams working overtime inside the stadium as dozens of spectators suffered sunstroke.

A semi-finalist against eventual champion Thomas Muster here twelve months ago, Kafelnikov had promised he would do better at this year's event — and he kept his word.

He played magnificently, staying ice cool in the intense heat and serving superbly (he hit a dozen aces), Kafelnikov didn't give Sampras a single break point the entire match.

The American, who had been hoping to win the only Grand Slam title missing from his collection, was clearly in trouble after dropping the first-set tie-break —



Yevgeny Kafelnikov

ping the first-set tie-break — and for once his usually lethal serve let him down. He hit nine double-faults.

The 6ft 3in (1m90) Kafelnikov, who dropped only one set on his way to the semi-final, was clearly the fresher of the two and he paid a warm tribute to Sampras when he said: "he was not the same Pete as we're used to seeing today. He was definitely tired today."

"But he is a great champion and he played so well here after such a tough draw. I have stopped him winning the title he wanted. But unfortunately there cannot be two winners."

Referring to the intense heat, Kafelnikov, playing the event for a fourth time and the winner of three titles so far this season, admitted: "I have never played in such heat here. It was very difficult."

Looking forward to the

final against Stich, a player he has beaten six times in nine meetings, Kafelnikov said: "We have played many times and I've beaten him more often than he's beaten me. But this is a Grand Slam final and it is going to be really tough on Sunday."

Sampras, who has been under intense pressure since the death of his coach and close friend Tim Gullikson last month and who had been hoping to add the missing title to his seven Grand Slam singles titles — won at the Australian Open (1994), Wimbledon (1993, 1994, 1995) and the United States Open (1990, 1993, 1995).

The American had surprised many by reaching the last four after having to face two double champions — Sergi Bruguera and Jim Courier — in earlier rounds. Michael Stich, who had posted his title pretensions

by dethroning defending champion Thomas Muster in the fourth round, produced another sharp display against Switzerland's Olympic champion Marc Rosset.

"I think I am playing the best clay court tennis of my career at the moment," said Stich after his win.

"Just a month or so ago I didn't think I would be ready to play at Roland Garros after all the lay-off and lack of matches. But I'm pleased I got it wrong."

"There is no pressure on me here. Injury made me understand many things. In a split second a career can be over. Now I just go out there and play to enjoy myself."

The 15th-seeded 1991 Wimbledon champion, who has astonished everyone with his remarkable form after a long injury lay-off, sowed the first seeds of doubt in Rosset's mind when he broke the 14th seeded Swiss player's service game for a 5-3 lead.

Up until then Rosset had been sharp and concentrated, and in a match of excellent sportsmanship had even over-ruled a linesman's call to give a point to Stich in the third game.

But once Stich had moved clear he was clearly in charge.

Another service break at the start of the second was enough for Stich to take the set 6-4 — and by the third, Rosset, who trailed 0-4, had clearly lost his way.

Stich's arrival in the final is a fitting reward for all the hard work and agony he has been through since badly injuring his left ankle in Vienna last October while playing Australian Todd Woodbridge.



(Left) Steffi Graf of Germany waves as she leaves the court after defeating Conchita Martinez of Spain in their semi final of the French open at Roland Garros stadium, June 6th. (Right) Conchita Martinez and Steffi Graf shake hands after their semi final match of the French tennis open at Roland Garros stadium, June 6. Graf defeated Martinez 6-3 6-1 and advances to the final where she will play Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario. (Reuters photos)

Graf and Sanchez to meet in French Open rematch

PARIS (R) — Steffi Graf outclassed Conchita Martinez in just over an hour to set up a rematch of last year's final against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario at the French Open Thursday.

The German top seed cruised into her eighth final at Roland Garros 6-3 6-1 while Sanchez Vicario, who she beat last year to win her fourth title here, dismissed doubles partner Jana Novotna 6-3, 7-5.

Saturday's final will again bring together arguably the two best clay-court players in the world. Sanchez Vicario beat Graf in the 1989 final and also won the title for a second time two years ago.

Graf, who looked stronger than ever against Martinez, will be aiming for her 19th Grand Slam. The first set of her match against Martinez, a rematch of one of last year's semifinals, did little for the promotion of women's tennis.

Nervousness and the suffocating heat may well have accounted for the poor start to the match. There were no less than

five breaks in the first six games but when Graf held serve in the seventh it signalled the end of Martinez's hopes.

The 1994 Wimbledon champion had very little to offer against the defending champion — an occasional passing shot, a few dropshots but also much too many double faults and unforced errors.

Graf won the first set in 36 minutes and won five straight games in a row before Martinez salvaged some pride by taking the fifth game of the second set. She also saved two match points before pushing her last backhand into the net.

"The way I've been playing for the past two weeks has been exceptional. I've played very solid tennis," said Graf, who has spent less than six hours on court in six matches.

On the prospect of yet another meeting with Sanchez Vicario, Graf said: "We've had so many finals together. It's always been very tight. I think it will be very difficult. Arantxa has played very

well so far in the tournament."

Sanchez Vicario again employed her trademark aggressive baseline game against her Czech doubles partner, who was far too nervous to be a real threat.

"It was a very good match for me. I was patient and I did what I had to do," said the Spaniard, who won in one hour and 37 minutes.

The first set was one-sided but Novotna, playing in her second semifinal here after losing to Graf in 1990, fought back bravely in the second set, trying to upset Sanchez at the net.

But she cracked in the 12th game as she was serv-

ing for a chance of a tiebreak, in which her hard serve could perhaps have secured her a third set.

"In the important points in the end, I played a little bit better and that's how I won the second set," said Sanchez Vicario, who added she was looking forward to her fifth grand slam final against Graf.

"We've played so many times that we know each other's game by heart. I'm not going to try anything special. I'll just try to move her around and play my game," she said.

Graf leads Sanchez Vicario 3-2 in their Grand Slam final clashes.

Rockies break skid by trouncing Astros 14-7

HOUSTON (R) — Dante Bichette, Vinny Castilla and John Vander Wal each drove in three runs as the Colorado Rockies ended a four-game losing streak with a 14-7 victory over the Houston Astros on Thursday.

In Los Angeles, Mike Blowers' two-run single highlighted a five-run first

inning and Raul Mondesi hit a two-run homer as the Los Angeles Dodgers averted a three-game sweep with an 8-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The Pirates scored three runs in the first off Tom Candiotti (4-5), but the Dodgers answered with five runs in the bottom of the

frame. San Francisco at Cincinnati was postponed because of rain.

In the American League, Andy Pettitte came within one out of a shutout and Andy Fox's first Major League homer capped a six-run eighth inning as the New York Yankees rolled to an 8-1 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Thursday.

In Baltimore, B.J. Surhoff hit a first-inning grand slam and drove in a career-high five runs and Cal Ripken, Roberto Alomar and Rafael Palmeiro each had two RBI as the Baltimore Orioles handed the Detroit Tigers their seventh straight loss

13-6, completing a three-game sweep.

In Boston, John Valentin hit for the cycle, and Vaughn Eshelman got his first win of the season as the Boston Red Sox defeated the Chicago White Sox 7-4.

In Cleveland, Edgar Martinez hit a two-run homer in the third inning and Dan Wilson drove in the other three runs to lead the Seattle Mariners to a 5-2 victory over the Cleveland Indians.

Bob Wells allowed two runs over six innings in his first start of the season to win for Seattle, which took two of three from Cleveland and has won four of its last six games.

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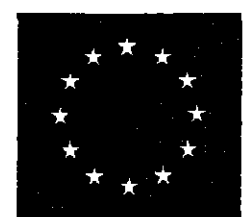
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Arafat to donors: We are on the brink of starvation

Palestinians meet to discuss Netanyahu victory

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Friday that his people were on the brink of starvation and called on the world to send more aid.

"Until now, too little has been paid, while you know we have to face this difficult economic situation because of the closure," Mr. Arafat told representatives from 35 donor countries that have pledged \$2.5 billion in aid over five years.

"We need urgent help," Mr. Arafat said. Since the May 1994 start of Palestinian self-rule, Mr. Arafat's government has received \$800 million in aid from the donor countries. World Bank officials in occupied Jerusalem said Friday.

That sum is \$400 million short of the target of \$1.2 billion in aid over the first two years, according to Palestinian economist Samir Abdallah.

In January, the donor countries agreed to cover the Palestinian authority's budget deficit which stood at \$75 million at the time. However, after Israel's blockade of the Palestinian areas the deficit was projected to be more than double, or \$180 million.

Israel sealed the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Feb. 25, in response to suicide bombings by Islamic militants.

The blockade barred 2 million Palestinians, including thousands of workers, from Israel.

After Israel's May 29 election, the closure was

slightly eased, with 22,000 workers over the age of 35 promised work permits.

Palestinian officials have said the closure cost the Palestinian economy \$6 million a day in lost wages and exports.

"We have arrived here in Gaza and the West Bank to the deadline of starvation," Mr. Arafat said Friday in his halting English.

Mr. Arafat singled out Israel, saying it did not send the aid it promised and failed to build planned industrial parks near crossings between Gaza and Israel.

"Here, I have to speak to my cousins, the Israelis. They had promised \$30 million. Until now, it did not arrive," Mr. Arafat said. "What we need to do now is speak more frankly, even with the new government."

During the Israeli election campaign, Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu, suggested he would reduce aid payments to the Palestinians and channel the money to Jewish settlements instead.

Mr. Netanyahu has not taken a clear position on the issue since the election.

In his speech Friday, Mr. Arafat also hinted at concern over Israel's recent import of more than 100,000 foreign workers who have been taking the jobs filled until now by Palestinians.

Meanwhile, Mr. Arafat began a meeting with senior officials from his government and PLO leaders to discuss the future of the

peace process after the right-wing election victory in Israel.

The meeting included ministers from the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the PLO's executive committee, along with the president of the Palestine National Council (PNC), Salim Zaanun, according to Nabil Abu Rudeina, an Arafat adviser.

The discussions were to focus on "the latest developments and the repercussions on the peace process after the victory," of right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister in Israeli elections last week, he said.

Palestinian leaders have expressed concern about Mr. Netanyahu's opposition to the creation of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital and his support for expanding Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

The meeting here was also to review the results of the mini-summit in Aqaba on Wednesday between Mr. Arafat, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and His Majesty King Hussein.

The Aqaba summit ended on a cautious note while awaiting the formation of Mr. Netanyahu's government.

The Palestinian talks coincided with the beginning of a summit in Damascus between the leaders of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria to form a common Arab front on peace negotiations with Israel after Mr.

Netanyahu's surprise victory.

Meanwhile, a senior Palestinian official on Friday said Palestinians are considering plans to organize a national dialogue grouping all PLO factions to put forward a united front in negotiations with Israel's new right-wing government.

Faruq Kaddumi, head of the PLO's political department, told the Arab daily Al Hayat that "the speedy resumption of Palestinian national dialogue is needed" after the election of Mr. Netanyahu as Israel's prime minister.

"Consultations are underway on this subject and the general atmosphere on the Palestinian scene augurs well for the opening of national dialogue," Mr. Kaddumi said.

The talks could take the form of a PLO meeting or a gathering of heads of the various Palestinian factions, he added.

He said he had visited Syrian-based factions opposed to Yasser Arafat's autonomy accords with Israel last week and discussed with them "ways to consolidate the Palestinian national consensus ahead of the next stage of negotiations" with Israel.

The negotiations on a final peace settlement, due to resume in mid-June with Israel, will address the thorniest problems between the two sides including refugees, the future of Jerusalem, Jewish settlements and borders.



Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Takamado, who arrived in Amman Thursday on a several-day visit to Jordan, are Friday accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Rahmah on a visit to the ancient city of Jerash (Photo by Boghos)

Japan Week in Jordan opens today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japan Week in Jordan, the sequel to last year's Jordan Week in Japan, commences today with a host of cultural and official events slated for the coming weeks. The event brings together an array of the two countries' most prominent intellectuals, politicians and economists.

"The objective of Japan Week is to further enhance and strengthen Jordanian-Japanese cooperation and consolidate bilateral relations in all spheres," said Dr. Mazen Armouti, president of the Jordanian Institute of Diplomacy, a co-organiser of the event in cooperation with Japan's Middle East Institute.

Dr. Armouti and Japanese Ambassador Takayuki Kimura have described Japan Week as a "major achievement" in building Jordanian-Japanese relations. During a press conference last week, they said that the event would expose Jordanians to various aspects of Japanese culture while visiting Japanese participants could experience Jordan first

hand. The event is hosted under the co-patronage of Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath and Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Takamado. The two Japanese royals, fourth in line of succession to the Japanese throne, arrived in Amman Thursday ahead of the event on a few-day official visit, during which they will hold talks with Jordanian officials.

On Friday, they were received by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath. The main feature of Japan Week in Jordan will be today's Symposium on Japanese-Jordanian Relations II, entitled "Partnership Towards the 21st Century". It will address Japanese-Jordanian relations with respect to political economy and its role in the economic development of the Middle East.

Prince Hassan will deliver an opening address and also participate in the first conference session on politics and the political economy. A second session entitled "The Japanese Economic Development and Asia, with

relevance to Jordan and the Middle East Region" will discuss economic issues. Following the third session, entitled "Japan Towards the 21st Century as a Possible Model for Jordan and the Region", the Symposium is expected to issue an "Amman Statement". The statement will expand on the Tokyo Declaration adopted by a similar symposium hosted in Tokyo last year during Jordan Week in Japan. The Declaration included 21 articles directing an approach to a full-fledged Japanese-Jordanian partnership to enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the two countries' efforts towards world peace and security.

"The Tokyo Declaration is the first written document that encompasses all aspects of Jordanian-Japanese relations," Dr. Armouti noted. "The Amman Statement will build on it."

Today's symposium, hosted at the Royal Cultural Centre, will be complemented by other seminars throughout the week debating "The Role of the Private Sector in Japan and Jordan".

(Continued on page 7)

NEWS IN BRIEF

China landslide toll reaches 82

BEIJING (R) — Chinese rescue workers said Friday they were unlikely to find more survivors from landslides that have killed 82 miners and left 144 missing. After recovering five more bodies Thursday, rescuers braved heavy rain and fresh landslides Friday to search through thousands of tonnes of mud. But Chen Song, an official handling rescue work coordination, said: "It's unlikely we're going to find any more survivors. 'It's very dangerous,' he said by telephone from Yuanyang county in southwestern Yunnan province, just north of the border with Vietnam. "Rains have triggered many small landslides... and these keep forcing us to stop rescue work." Two landslides crashed down Laofinshan, or Old Gold Mountain, on May 31 and June 3. Mr. Chen said 82 miners were confirmed dead and 144 were still missing.

14 more killed in S. African province

DURBAN, South Africa (AFP) — Police reported at least 14 people killed in violence-torn KwaZulu-Natal province during the 24 hours to early Friday. Police spokesman Vish Naidoo said motives behind the deaths, which occur less than three weeks ahead of the region's June 26 local government elections, were unclear. Nearly 20,000 people — including about 1,800 this year — have died during 11 years of civil strife between President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and Mangosuthu Buthe's Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP), which controls KwaZulu-Natal's provincial government. Fears of increased violence in the weeks leading up to elections have prompted the South African government to send about 7,000 police and military reinforcements to the region.

War crimes witness hurt in escape bid

ROME (R) — An 84-year-old former SS major expected to be a key witness in Italy's most sensational war crimes trial in decades fell from the first floor balcony of a hotel Friday and broke his pelvis. A prosecutor said Karl Hass was attempting to flee so he would not have to testify at the war crimes trial of SS Captain Erich Priebke. Doctors said Mr. Hass broke his pelvis bone and injured his vertebrae. He was taken to hospital by police who were guarding him at about 5 a.m. (0300 GMT). He was in good condition and was due to be transferred to a military hospital later Friday. He was to have testified for the prosecution at the trial session Friday morning.

TV clash upsets French AIDS campaign

PARIS (R) — A live television show aimed at rallying funds to fight AIDS turned sour Thursday when an activist denounced the French government's planned deportations of illegal immigrants infected with the deadly virus. The row shattered the cosy consensus of the fund-raising broadcast which capped a day of action supported by the media and charities seeking to fight the spread of AIDS and counter prejudice against the disease. The activist, Christophe Martet of the militant Act-Up group, verbally attacked Culture Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy over the planned expulsion of a Zairean mother and her child next Tuesday. Mr. Douste-Blazy, seeking in vain to placate Mr. Martet, said police chiefs had been told to examine each case of alleged illegal immigration on its own merits. "I understand your aggression," the minister said, while the studio audience booed, jeered and wailed. "I'm not aggressive, I'm angry, damn it," Mr. Martet said.

Afghanistan alliance suspends Hekmatyar

ISLAMABAD (AFP) —

Afghanistan's four-party Supreme Coordination Council (SCC) has suspended the membership of former Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar after he agreed to join the Kabul government, council officials said Friday.

"Hekmatyar's membership has been suspended after his decision to enter into an alliance" with Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, they said.

"Hekmatyar can remain either in the government or in the opposition, but he cannot be a member of both," an SCC official said.

The decision was taken after a series of meetings between SCC chief Sibghatullah Mojaddedi and alliance leaders earlier this week in Afghanistan, they said.

SCC partners include Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami, Mojaddedi's National Liberation Front, Shiite leader Karim Khalili's Hezb-i-Wahdat and the National Movement of General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

But the SCC official, who did not want to be named, said that the SCC, an anti-Rabbani alliance formed two years ago, had

not formally expelled Mr. Hekmatyar as he had not yet assumed the office of prime minister as promised under last month's deal with Mr. Rabbani.

Under the accord, signed on May 24 almost 10 days after hundreds of Hezb-i-Islami fighters reached Kabul, the two former foes would jointly defend the country.

Sources in Kabul said the Hezb-i-Islami would also be given the finance and defence ministries in the new government in an attempt to broaden the base of support of the Rabbani government, whose tenure expired in December 1994.

Other Afghan sources said the SCC might expell Hezb-i-Islami when Mr. Hekmatyar becomes prime minister.

Mr. Hekmatyar resigned as prime minister and joined Mr. Dostum, who controls several provinces in northern Afghanistan, when the warlord staged an abortive coup in January 1994.

The SCC officials rejected as "baseless" the official Hezb-i-Islami claim that the council had allowed the party chief to hold peace talks with the Rabbani administration.

Shin Bet interrogator acquitted in Palestinian's shaking death

TEL AVIV (AP) — A disciplinary court of the Shin Bet security agency on Thursday acquitted an interrogator of most charges against him in connection with the death of a Palestinian detainee after violent shaking during questioning, officials said.

The death of 29-year-old Abdel Samad Harizat in May 1995 caused outrage both in Israel and abroad. Legislators called for a reassessment of interrogation methods and the justice ministry and Shin Bet both launched inquiries.

The two investigators were transferred to desk jobs and one was suspended.

On Thursday, the disciplinary court acquitted one of the interrogators of a series of unspecified charges against him and said he could return to his job, the prime minister's office confirmed. But the court ordered a reprimand added to his record.

Israel TV said the reprimand was ordered because of a minor charge connected

to his behavior on the day of the interrogation.

Avigdor Feldman, a human rights lawyer and head of the Israeli Association Against Torture, said the interrogator was convicted on a technicality. He called the ruling "ridiculous."

"He acted within the sick system that produced this verdict," Mr. Feldman told army radio.

The interrogator was not identified. Mr. Feldman told the AP that his association has appealed to the supreme court to have the interrogator face criminal charges and said the disciplinary court proceedings amounted to "nothing."

Harizat, a suspected leading Islamic militant, was seized at his home in the West Bank town of Hebron and within hours lay mortally wounded in an Israeli hospital. Officials maintained Harizat had been involved in plans for a car bombing in Israel.

An autopsy indicated that Harizat died of brain injury

caused by violent shaking.

A Boston-based human rights group, Physicians for Human Rights, condemned Israel's acceptance of severe shaking and said it should be considered a form of torture.

But Israeli officials defend the practice as necessary at a time when security forces are trying to prevent terrorism by Islamic militants.

Sixty-three people died in four suicide bombings in February and March this year. The attacks were claimed by Islamic militants.

Eitan Peleg, an attorney for the Shin Bet interrogator, said the verdict upheld the view that interrogators must be allowed to use rough measures to extract information that could prevent attacks.

"They send them (the interrogators) every day to the front, really the front, with those suspected of being terrorists," Peleg said.

Princess Anne's son named in pub brawl report

LONDON (AFP) — Police in Scotland are believed to have questioned the son of Princess Anne, Peter Phillips Thursday in connection with a brawl in a pub near his school, in which a local boy was hurt, according to reports in the popular press. A spokesman for Gordonstoun, the exclusive Scottish public school attended by Phillips, told journalists: "you can take it that all those said to have been there were interviewed by the police. A number of pupils in their final year were interviewed this afternoon. They were the ones thought to have been there when the fight started," he said. The spokesman declined to say whether Phillips was among the boys questioned, though most of those involved were, like Phillips, member of the school rugby team. According to the Daily Mirror, Phillips, 18, was involved in a fight in the village of Lossiemouth near Gordonstoun. The fight was reportedly between about 20 boys from the school and a group of village lads, and erupted after a drinking spree. An unemployed youth from Lossiemouth who was treated in hospital for a fractured jaw, told his story of the fight to the Daily Mirror. The youth said it was not Phillips who hit him, but the tabloids Thursday published contradictory statements from witnesses, some of whom said Phillips had exchanged blows in the brawl. The headmaster of Gordonstoun, Mark Poyer vowed to take action against the culprits.

China's biggest family has 160 members

SHANGHAI (R) — While Beijing struggles to control population growth with its one-child-per-couple rule, one household in east China boasts 160 people, the largest family in the nation. Five generations of the family live together in a village in Jiangying township, Jiangsu province, the Wen Hui Bao newspaper said Wednesday. Wu Yun-di, the oldest family member, is 99 and her husband, Yan Wuben, is 97. Both are in good health, plant vegetables and go to town two or three times a week for shopping, it said. The couple enjoy physical labour and their diet includes a tipple of rice wine a day, it said. They are the only survivors of the family's first generation. The second generation has 18 people, the third 74, the fourth 62 and the fifth four, it said. Wu and Yan attribute their long life to their love and to the harmony among the family members, it said.

Man invents condom applicator

NIMES, France (AFP) — A 34-year-old baker here has invented an applicator for condoms which he says will "minimise injuries." Patrick Foulgoc, who dreams up inventions in his spare time, said Friday that many men did not use condoms "because they are put off by the first ten seconds." Mr. Foulgoc's invention consists of a flexible plastic ring fixed to the condom which are packaged together. "All you have to do is put on the first few centimetres of the condom, remove the ring and continue to unroll the condom by hand," Mr. Foulgoc said. "The applicator enables the user to avoid manipulating the condom with his nails and to put it on quickly with one hand." Mr. Foulgoc said he had patented his invention and is looking for industrialists to market it.

Cyprus elects former president as parliament speaker

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Veteran politician Spyros Kyprianou was elected chairman of Cyprus's House of Representatives on Thursday in a narrow win over socialist leader Vassos Lyssarides.

Mr. Kyprianou, chairman of the centre-right Democratic Party (DIKO) was elected speaker for the next five years with 30 votes cast by members of his party and the right-wing Democratic Rally (DISY) in the 56-member house.

DIKO has 10 seats and DISY 20 seats. Parliamentary elections

parliament were held last month.

Mr. Lyssarides was supported with 26 votes, cast by members of his socialist EDEK party, the Communist Akel Party and the Free Democrats Party.

The election of Mr. Kyprianou, president of Cyprus between 1977 and 1988, was considered certain from the outset after members of DIKO and DISY publicly announced their support for his bid.

Mr. Kyprianou promised to work towards the reunification of Cyprus, divided since a Turkish invasion in 1974 in response to a coup

backed by the military regime then in Greece.

"Our people have not forgotten," said Mr. Kyprianou. "This small but proud nation expects that we will be worthy of them."

Mr. Kyprianou said an aggressive enlightenment campaign on the Cyprus problem, a strong economy and military defence was the "shield" of Cyprus.

Ghali meets with Turkish Cypriot leader

Meanwhile, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali described as

"constructive" his meeting Thursday with a Turkish Cypriot leader. The U.N. chief is trying to break a deadlock in talks for the reunification of Cyprus.

"I hope that we can establish dialogue between the leaders of the two sides," Dr. Boutros-Ghali said after meeting with Rauf Denkash, leader of Turkish Cypriots.

Mr. Denkash said he asked Dr. Boutros-Ghali to prevent Cyprus from joining the European Union fold before the island was united.

"In its current status the admission would be admi-

ting the Greek Cypriots only," Mr. Denkash said. "This would set in stone the division of the island."

The Mediterranean island of Cyprus has been divided into Greek and Turkish sectors since 1974 following an Athens-backed coup aimed at uniting the island with Greece.

The Greek Cypriots, with the support of EU-member Greece, are pushing for membership in the 15-member union.

A U.N.-led initiative to reunite the island has been stalled since 1994.